into circles, consisting of four or five separate spots; and there is commonly, but not always, a central spot in each circle; in which particular, as well as in its superior size, and deeper colour, the Panther differs from the Leopard, which has very rarely any central spots in its circular markings. On the face and legs the spots are single, and along the top of the back is a row of oblong spots, which are still longer as they approach the tail. The breast and belly are white; the former marked with transverse dusky stripes; the latter and the tail with large irregular black spots. The Panther is principally found in Africa, and is to that country what the Tiger is to Asia, with this alleviating circumstance, that it is supposed to prefer the destruction of other animals to that of mankind. Its manner of seizing its prey resembles that of the Tiger; lurking near the sides of woods, &c. and darting forward with a sudden spring. It is of a highly ferocious nature, and scarce to be tamed. These animals and the Leopard were the *Varii* and *Pardi* of the ancients; and one would think (says Mr. Pennant) that the Romans would have exhausted the deserts of Africa by the numbers they drew from thence for their public spectacles. Scaurus exhibited at one time a hundred and fifty Panthers; Pompey the Great, four hundred and ten; and Augustus, four hundred and twenty. It has been doubted whether the Panther and the Leopard were natives of America as well as of the old continent; but this question seems now to be decided in the ne-

gative. In the twelfth edition of the Systema Naturæ the Panther and Leopard seem to be confounded by Linnæus himself, who appears to have considered them as the same species, under the name of *Pardus;* while, at the same time, his specific character, as the Count de Buffon observes, is such as to agree properly with no animal of the whole genus, viz. *F. cauda elongata, corpore maculis superioribus orbiculatis, inferioribus virgatis.* It may be contended, perhaps, that Linnæus meant by this expression to characterize the obscurely subtransverse streaks on the breast of the animal; but it must be acknowledged that even then his descriptive character, though continued in the Gmelinian edition of the work, is by no means sufficiently expressive; and, like many others, seems to require alteration and improvement. It may, perhaps, have happened that the spots on the under part of the sides, in some specimens, may have appeared somewhat confluent, so as to produce the appearance of an indistinct kind of streaks; and something approaching to this may be observed in the figure of Buffon, which, on account of its general excellence, is represented in the present work. It is remarkable that the specific character of the Panther, as given by Brisson, turns upon the same circumstance.

Thus much may be observed of short specific characters in general; that, though highly useful, they are not always to be depended upon, and are only to be received with a proper degree of allow-

ance: it must also be added, that the major part of those composed by Linnæus are remarkable for their truth and exactitude.

LEOPARD.

Felis Leopardus *F. cauda mediocri, corpore fulvo, maculis subcoadunatis nigris. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 77.*

C. with yellow body marked with subcontiguous black spots, disposed in circles.

Leopard. *Buff. 9. p. 151. pl. 14.*

Leopard. *Pennant Quadr. 1. p. 282.*

This animal is best distinguished from the Panther by its paler yellow-colour, its smaller size, and the somewhat closer disposition of the spots which form its ocellated markings; but to a mere general observer, the two animals are so extremely alike as to be frequently mistaken for each other. A true distinctive mark between the Leopard and Panther is by no means easy to communicate, either by description, or even by figure. The principal difference is in size; the Leopard being considerably the smallest of the two; the colour of the Panther is richer or more fulvous than that of the Leopard; but this too is liable to a degree of uncertainty: the ocelli or rounded marks on the Panther are larger, and more distinctly formed; but the character given by Mr. Pennant of the Panther, viz. a central spot in the middle of each, is by no means a permanent or truly distinctive mark; since the

spots in some specimens (perhaps the males) are quite plain in the middle; while, on the other hand, in some specimens of the Leopard one or more small central spots are visible. As to the subtransverse marks about the neck or breast, they seem to be full as distinct in the Leopard as in the Panther; and, perhaps, upon the whole, we must be content with distinguishing the two species by the size, and by the fulvous-yellow of the Panther, and the clearer or paler yellow of the Leopard. The general length of this species, from nose to tail, is four feet; of the tail two and a half. It is a native of Senegal and Guinea, as well as of many other parts of Africa: it also occurs in several parts of Asia, viz. in Persia, India, China, &c. In its manners it resembles the Panther.

VAR. ?

A variety of this species, of a dusky black, marked with spots of a deeper or more glossy black, and perfectly resembling in disposition those of the common Leopard, is found in Bengal. In one of this kind brought to England some years ago, the fur, when a little turned aside, exhibited a slight tinge of the natural or general colour.

LESSER LEOPARD.

THIS, according to Mr. Pennant, who seems its only describer, is not half the size of the common Leopard. Its colour is a bright yellow, spotted in the manner of the common Leopard, in circles: on each side the upper lip is a great black spot: the face is spotted with black: the chin is white; the breast marked with small spots; the belly white, spotted with black: the tail shorter in proportion than in the common Leopard, and tapering to a point. Supposed to be a native of India. It was kept in the Tower, and seemed a good-natured animal.

HUNTING LEOPARD.

Felis Jubata? *F. cauda mediocri, corpore fulvo, maculis nigris, collo jubato. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 79.

C. of a pale fulvous colour, with round black spots, tail of moderate length, and slightly-maned neck.

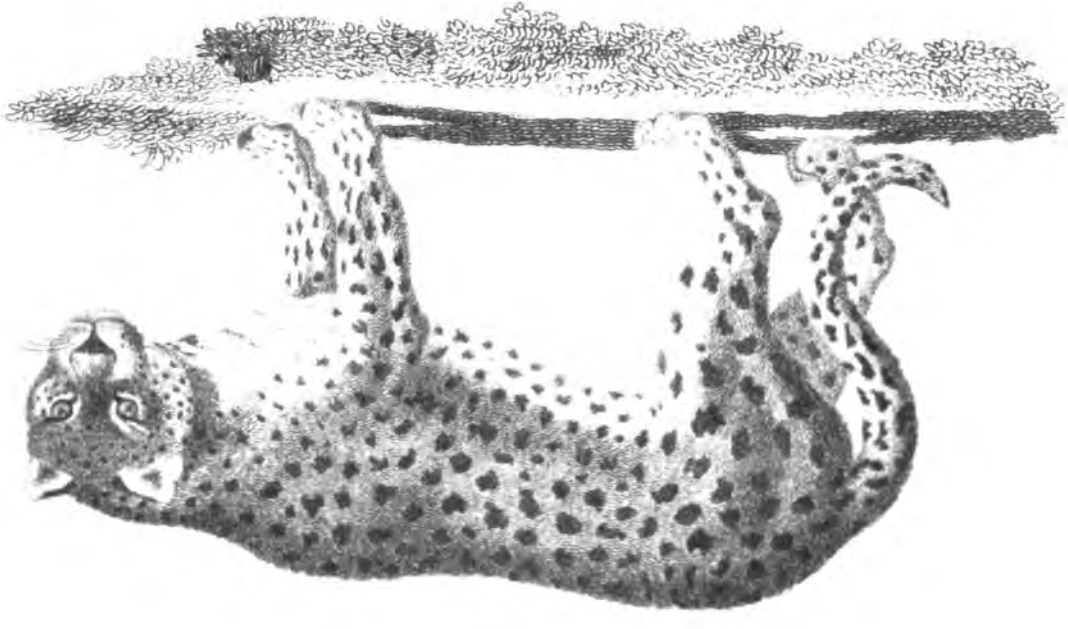
Le Jaguar ou le Leopard. *Buff. suppl.* 3. *p.* 218. *pl.* 38.

Le Guepard. *Buff.* 13. *p.* 249.

Felis jubata. *Schreber. p. t.* 105.

Hunting Leopard. *Pennant Quadr.* 2. *p.* 284.

THIS animal is about the size of a large greyhound, and of a long make, with narrow chest, and long legs. It is a native of India, where it is said to be tamed, and used for the chase of Antelopes and other animals; being carried into the

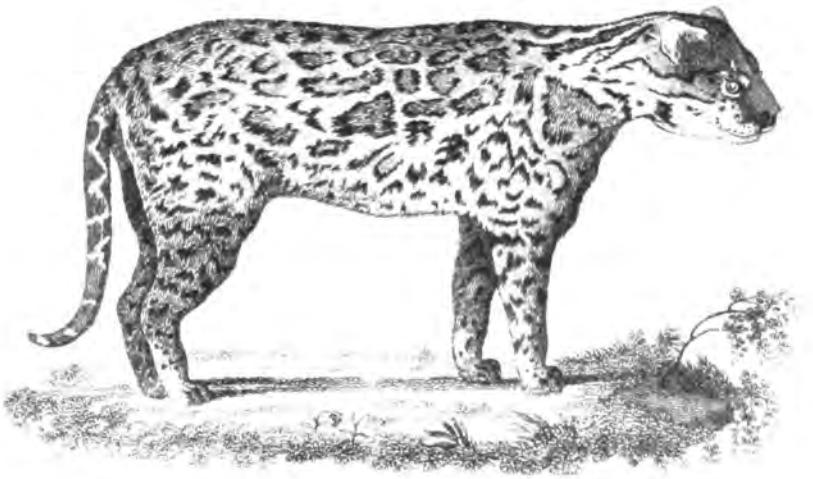


field chained and hooded, and, at the proper time, is loosed, when it is said to steal along the ground at first, concealing itself, till it gains a proper advantage, and then to dart on the animal it pursues, with several repeated springs. If it happens to miss its prey, it returns to the call of its master. The specimen of this animal in the Leverian Museum is of a pale fulvous-yellow, with the cheeks, neck, and breast, white: the body whitish beneath; with few obscure dusky spots. All the upper parts are very thickly spotted with small and perfectly round spots, with still smaller ones intermixed: the spots are largest on the outside of the thighs, where the smaller intermixed ones are scarce larger than peas, or proportionally less than on the other parts: the nose is black: from each eye is a blackish line, running down to the corners of the mouth: the tail is spotted like the body, but towards the tip are two or three obscure bands; and the tip itself is blackish: the insides of the legs are thickly spotted. There seems to be no distinct appearance of a mane in this specimen; neither is there the slightest appearance of it in Buffon's plate, which is here represented; but it should be observed, that the spots in this figure seem much less accurately rounded than those in the Leverian specimen, as well as less numerous in proportion. In Mr. Schreber's figure of this animal the mane seems extremely conspicuous.

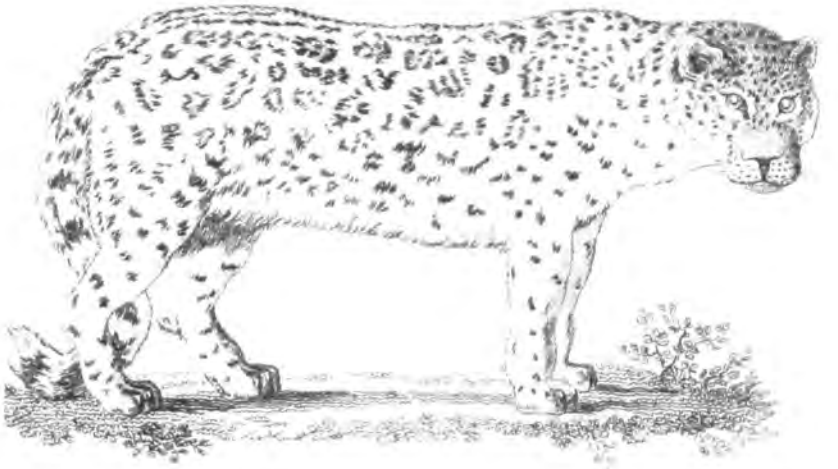
ONCE.

Felis Uncia. *F. cauda elongata, corpore albido, maculis irregularibus nigris. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 77.*
C. with long tail and whitish body, with irregular black marks.
L'Once. *Buff. 9. p. 151. pl. 13.*
Once. *Pennant Quadr. 1. p. 285.*

THIS species is scarce inferior in size to the Leopard. Its colour is dull white, with a slight yellowish or tawny cast, and the whole is scattered over with differently sized spots and markings of black. About the head these spots are small, numerous, and roundish; along the back they form a kind of abrupt or irregularly interrupted stripes, while on the sides and limbs they are variously shaped, forming in some places angular and in others somewhat round or oval marks, with a central space included, and on the legs and tail they are black and scattered. In its general form the animal seems much allied to the Leopard. It seems not to have been distinctly described by any modern author till the time of Buffon; but it is supposed to have been known to the ancients, and to have been the smaller Panther of Oppian, and the Panthera of Pliny. It should be here observed, that the name Uncia, Once, or Ounce, has, by Gesner and some other naturalists, been applied to the Leopard; and this confusion of names among naturalists has greatly tended to obscure the real knowledge of this dif-



JAGUAR.



ONCA.

ficult genus. It is a native of several parts of Africa and Asia.

JAGUAR.

Felis Onca. *F. cauda mediocri, corpore flavescente, ocellis nigris rotundato-angulatis medio flavis. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 61.*

C. with tail of moderate length, and yellowish body, with black ocellated roundish-cornered spots with yellow central spaces.

Felis flavescens, maculis nigris orbiculatis, quibusdam rosam referentibus variegata *Briss. Quadr. p. 196.*

Pardus aut Lynx brasiliensis, Jaguara dictus, Lusitanis Onza. *Raii syn. p. 168.*

Brasilian Cat. *Pennant Quadr. 1. p. 286.*

Le Jaguar. *Buff. 9. p. 201. pl. 18.*

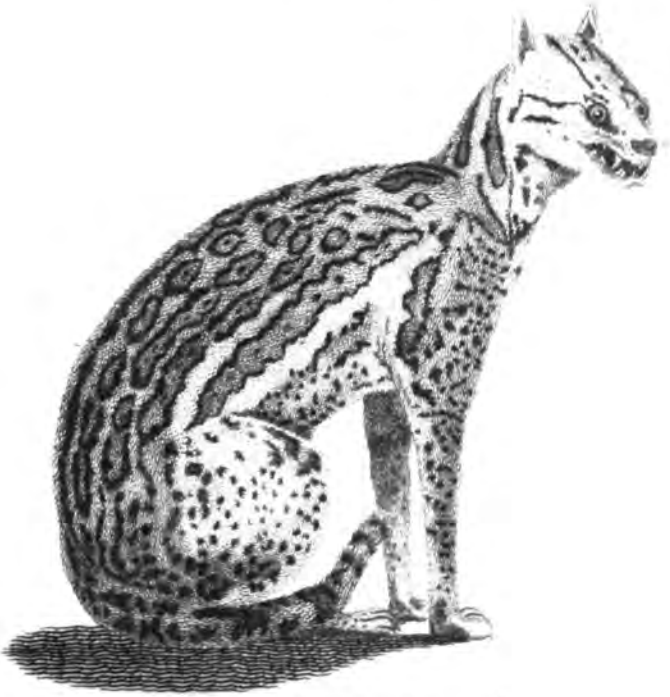
THE Jaguar, sometimes called the American Tiger, is a native of the hotter parts of South America, and is considered as a very fierce and destructive animal. Its manners are said to resemble those of the Tiger, lying in ambush for its prey. It is about the size of a Wolf, or even larger. Its ground colour is a pale brownish-yellow, variegated on the upper parts with streaks and open oblong spots or markings of black; the top of the back being marked with long interrupted stripes, and the sides with rows of regular open marks: the thighs and legs are also variegated with black spots but without central spaces: the breast and belly are whitish: the tail not so long as the body; the upper part marked with large black spots in an irregular manner, the lower with smaller spots.

OCELOT.

Felis Pardalis. *F. cauda elongata, corpore maculis superioribus virgatis, inferioribus orbiculatis. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 78.
Longish-tailed C. with long stripe-shaped spots on the upper parts, and round ones on the lower.
Felis rufa, in ventre ex albo flavicans, maculis nigris, in dorso longis, in ventre orbiculatis variegata. *Briss. Quadr. p.* 199.
Catus Pardus, v. Catus ferus Americanorum. *Raii Quadr.* 169.
Ocelot. *Buff.* 13. *t.* 35, 36.
Mexican C. *Pennant Quadr.* 1. *p.* 287.

The Ocelot or Pardalis is certainly one of the most beautiful of the present genus. In size it is almost equal to the Jaguar. Mr. Pennant describes it as about four times the size of a large Cat. The ground-colour of the male is a bright reddish tawny above, nearly white on the lower part of the sides, breast, limbs, and belly. Several large, long, and variously inflected broad stripes, of a deeper or richer tinge than the ground-colour, are disposed over the upper parts of the body; these stripes are edged with black, and have also several differently shaped black spots in the middle part. The head is streaked and spotted with black; and the upper as well as under parts of the limbs and the belly marked in a beautiful manner with small and numerous round spots: the tail is patched or spotted also. The colours of the female are less vivid, and more inclining to ash-colour. This is an extremely ferocious animal, and inhabits the hotter parts ofSouth America, where it is said to com-

CAPE CAT.



OCELOT.

mit great ravages among cattle, &c. It is also said to be untameable in a state of captivity. It is well figured in Buffon. The present figure is from a beautiful specimen in the Leverian Museum.

CINEREOUS CAT.

Cinereous Cat. *Pennant Quadr.* 1. *p.* 289.

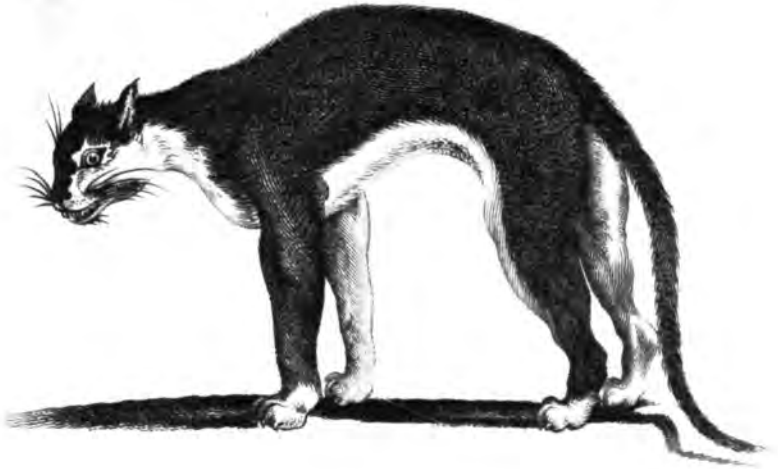
This seems to be described only by Mr. Pennant, who informs us that it is about the size of the Ocelot, and is a native of Guinea. It is of a cinereous colour, palest on the legs and belly; the irides are hazel; the tip of the nose red; ears sharp and rounded; black on the outside, grey within: from the nose to the eye on each side a black line; and above and beneath each eye a white one: sides of the mouth white, with four rows of small black spots: from the hind part of the head to the back and shoulders run some long, narrow, hollow stripes: along the top of the back two rows of oval black spots: the marks of the sides long, hollow, and irregular, extending from the shoulders to the thighs: shoulders both barred and spotted: legs and belly only spotted: tail not so long as the body, with large spots above, and small beneath. This species according to Mr. Pennant's description as given above, seems to approach extremely near to the Ocelot, the female of which inclines much to

ash-colour; but being expressly said to be a native of Guinea, we cannot suppose it the same species.

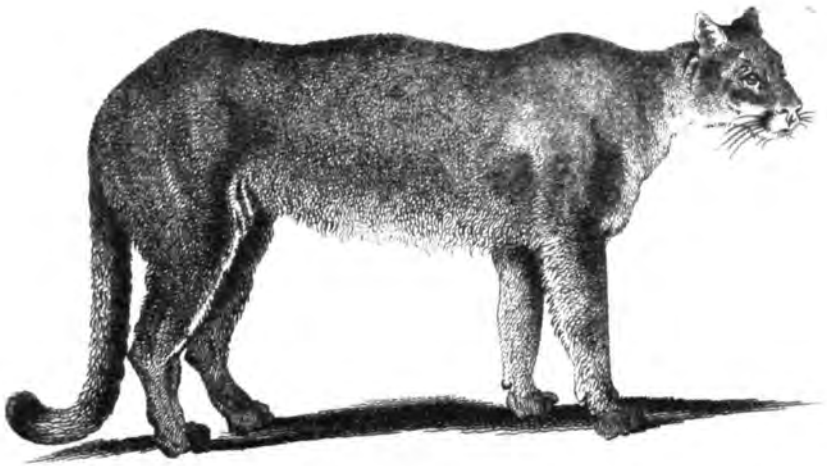
PUMA.

Felis Puma. *F. cauda elongata, corpore immaculato fulvo, subtus albido.*
C. with long tail, and reddish-brown body, whitish beneath.
Felis concolor. *F. cauda elongata, corpore immaculato fulvo. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 79.
Tigris fulvus. *Barrere Fr. æquin. p.* 166.
Puma, v. Leo Americanus. *Hernand. mex. p.* 518.
Cougouar. *Buff. 9. p.* 216. *pl.* 19.
Puma. *Pennant Quadr.* 1. *p.* 289.

THE Puma is the largest of the American beasts of prey, measuring five feet or more from nose to tail; the tail itself measuring about two feet eight inches. It is a long-bodied animal, and stands high on its legs. Its colour is a pale brownish-red, with a slight dusky cast on some parts: the chin is white; the breast and belly ash-colour; and the insides of the legs are of the same colour: the tail of a dusky-ferruginous tinge, with a black tip. It is a native of many parts of America, both North and South, occurring from Canada to Brasil. The Puma is an animal of great strength and fierceness, preying on cattle, deer, &c. Sometimes it is said to climb trees, and watch the opportunity of springing on such animals as happen to pass beneath.



BLACK TIGER.



PUMA.

BLACK TIGER.

Felis Discolor. *F. cauda elongata, corpore nigro, subtus albido.*
C. with long tail, and body black above, whitish below.
Felis cauda elongata, corpore potissimum nigro. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 79.
Felis nigra. *Erxleb. syst. mammal. p.* 512.
Le Cougouar noir. *Buff. suppl. 3. p.* 223. *pl.* 42.
Jaguar or Black Tiger. *Pennant Quadr.* 1. *p.* 290. *pl.* 58.

THIS, like the former species, is a native of America, and is considered as a very destructive and ferocious animal. It is about the size of a heifer of a year old; and is entirely of a deep brownish-black colour on the upper parts, and pale grey or whitish beneath: the upper lip and the paws are also whitish: the tail is of the same dusky colour with the body.

MARGAY.

Felis Tigrina. *F. cauda elongata, corpore fulvo nigro striato maculatoque, subtus albido. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 80.
C. with long tail and fulvous body striped and spotted with black, whitish beneath.
Felis ex griseo flavescens, maculis nigris variegata. *Briss. Quadr.* 1. *p.* 193.
Felis fera tigrina. *Barr. Fr. equin. p.* 152.
Mergay. *Buff.* 13. *p.* 248. *pl.* 38.
Cayenne Cat. *Pennant Quadr.* 1. *p.* 292.

THE Margay is a native of South America, and is about the size of a common Cat. The ground-colour is a bright tawny: the face striped down-

throat white, surrounded with a semicircle of black: breast, belly, and inside of limbs, white: the spots on those parts, the legs, and rump, round: tail long, full of hair, brown and annulated with black.

Native of Bengal. This animal produced a mixed breed with the common Cat; the offspring being marked in a nearly similar manner, but on a cinereous ground. This species has no dread of water, but will readily plunge into it and swim.

MANUL.

Felis Manul. *F. cauda elongata, nigro-annulata, capite punctis et fasciis duabus lateralibus nigris insignito. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 81. *Pall. itin. 3. p.* 692.

C. with elongated tail annulated with black, and the head marked with spots and two lateral bands of black.

Manul. *Pennant Quadr. 1. p.* 294.

This species inhabits the middle part of northern Asia, and was first described by Dr. Pallas. It is of the size of a Fox, and is of a strong and robust make. Its colour is tawny, but the crown of the head is speckled with black, and the cheeks are marked by two dusky lines running obliquely from the eyes: the feet are striped obscurely with dark lines: the tail is longer than that of a domestic Cat, and is thickly beset with hair, and encircled with ten black rings, of which the three next to the tip are placed so near as almost to touch each other.

COMMON CAT.

Felis Catus. *F. cauda elongata fusco-annulata, corpore fasciis nigricantibus; dorsalibus longitudinalibus tribus, lateralibus spiralibus. Lin. Syst. Nat. p.* 62.

Yellowish-grey C. with dusky bands; three on the back longitudinal; the lateral ones spiral; the tail barred with dusky rings.

Felis vulgo Catus. *Gesn. Quadr.* 98. *Aldr. dig.* 564.

Felis pilis ex fusco-flavicante et albido variegatis, cauda annulis alternatim nigris et ex sordide albo flavicantibus. *Briss. Quadr.* 192.

Le Chat sauvage, &c. &c. *Buff. 6. p.* 1. *pl.* 1, 2, *&c.*

Common Cat. *Pennant Quadr.* 1. *p.* 295.

The Cat, in a state of natural wildness, and from which are supposed to have proceeded all the varieties of the domestic Cat, is a native of the northern regions of Europe and Asia. In this its natural state it differs in some slight particulars from the domestic animal, having a somewhat shorter tail in proportion, a flatter and larger head, and stronger limbs; and, from an exact anatomical inspection of its interior parts, it appears that the intestines are somewhat shorter than those of the domestic Cat. The colour of the wild Cat is commonly a pale yellowish-grey, with dusky stripes and variegations; those on the back running lengthwise, those on the sides transversely and with a curved direction: the tail is annulated with several alternate circles of blackish-brown and dull white: the tip of the nose and the lips are black. Even wild Cats, however, appear to differ in their shades of

colour in different parts of Europe. Mr. Schreber in his plate of quadrupeds, figures a specimen of a pretty deep tawny colour, varied with black or deep-brown streaks, so that the animal has very much the appearance of a Tiger in miniature; while on another plate he has exhibited one, communicated by Dr. Pallas, of a pale grey with black or dark-brown variegations.

The manners of the wild cat resemble those of the Lynx, and several others of this genus; living in woods, and preying on young hares, on birds, and a variety of other animals, which it seizes by surprise. It breeds in the hollows of trees, and produces about four at a birth. "The wild Cat (says Mr. Pennant) may be called the British Tiger; it is the fiercest and most destructive beast we have; making dreadful havock among our poultry, lambs, and kids. It inhabits the most mountainous and woody parts of these islands, living mostly in trees, and feeding only by night. It multiplies as fast as our common Cats; and often the females of the latter will quit their domestic mates, and return home pregnant by the former."

The varieties of this animal in a domestic state are very numerous; it is either entirely black; black and white; black, fulvous, and white (called the Tortoise-shell or Spanish Cat); white without any variegation; fulvous and white; dun-colour or tawny, either plain or with deeper stripes; tabby, or of a similar colour to the wild Cat, but with much bolder or more vivid variegations; slate-coloured or blue-grey (called the Chartreux

Cat); slate-coloured with very long fur, especially on the neck and tail (the Persian Cat); white, with hair of a similar length (called the Angora Cat); and, lastly, with penciled or tufted ears, like a Lynx, which sometimes, though rarely, takes place. Of all the above varieties the Persian and the Angora are the most remarkable: the latter variety has sometimes one eye blue, the other yellow; a particularity which takes place in some specimens of the common white Cat; it is also observable that the white variety of the Cat is sometimes perfectly deaf.

To enlarge on the character and manners of this useful and agreeable domestic would be entirely superfluous. It may be sufficient to observe, that, when well educated, the Cat possesses qualities which well entitle her to the regard and protection of mankind; and if she does not exhibit the vivid and animated attachment of the Dog, she is still of an affectionate and gentle disposition, and grateful to her benefactors.

She has also the merit of perpetual cleanliness, and does not soil even the nicest furniture; while her numerous and infinitely varying gesticulations have an elegance and levity almost unequalled by any other animal.

A singular instance of attachment in the Cat, is recorded in Mr. Pennant's Account of London. Henry Wriothsly, Earl of Southampton, the friend and companion of the Earl of Essex in his fatal insurrection, having been confined some time in

the Tower, was surprised by a visit from his favourite Cat, which, says tradition, reached its master, by descending the chimney of his apartment.

No animal, whose habits and manners we have the opportunity of accurately observing, exhibits a greater degree of maternal tenderness than the Cat: the extreme assiduity with which she attends her young, and the fondness which she shews for them, afford the most pleasing entertainment to a philosophic observer. She even possesses a propensity to nurse with tenderness the young of a different individual; and it is a general observation, that a domestic Cat will commonly suckle and nurse any young kitten that is newly introduced to her.

Nothing can be more beautiful than the experiment of setting a young Cat, for the first time, before a looking-glass. The animal appears surprised and pleased with the resemblance, and makes several attempts at touching its new acquaintance; and, at length, finding its efforts fruitless, it looks behind the glass, and appears highly surprised at the absence of the figure: it again views itself; tries to touch with its foot; suddenly looking at intervals behind the glass: it then becomes more accurate in its observations, and begins, as it were, to make experiments, by stretching out its hand in different directions; and when it finds that these motions are answered in every respect by the figure in the glass, it

seems, at length, to be convinced of the real nature of the image. The same is the case with the Dog at an early age.

The Cat generally lives in habits of friendship with the other domestic animals; the contrary instances arising entirely from neglect of early education*.

The sleep of the Cat, which is generally very light, is sometimes so profound that the animal requires to be shaken pretty briskly before it can be awakened: this particularity takes place chiefly in the depth of winter, and especially on the approach of snowy weather: at such periods also, as well as at some others, the animal diffuses a fragrant smell, something like that of cloves.

The fur of the Cat, being generally clean and dry, readily yields electric sparks when rubbed; and if a clean and perfectly dry domestic Cat be placed, in frosty weather, on a stool with glass feet, or insulated by any other means, and rubbed for a certain space, in contact with the wire of a coated vial, it will be effectually charged by this method.

* We might here mention the well-known anecdote of the French lady, who taught her Cat, Dog, Mouse, and Bird, to feed together from the same plate.

JAPAN CAT.

Japan Cat. *Pennant Quadr.* 1. *p.* 297.
Chat sauvage Indien. *Vosmaer.*

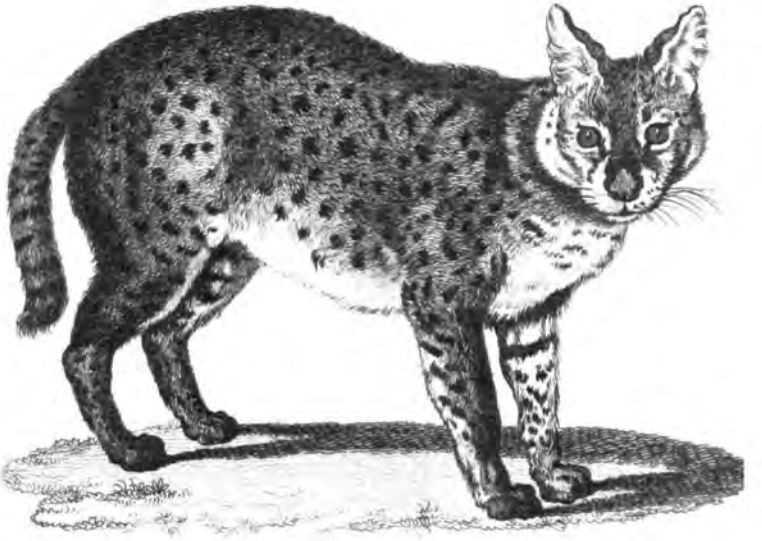
This is said to be of the size of a common Cat, and has a tail ten inches and a half long: the ears are upright and pointed: colour of the face and lower part of the neck whitish: breast and lower belly a clear grey: body part yellow and clear grey, mixed with black disposed in transverse rays. Along the back, quite to the tail, is a broad band of black, which also extends over the upper part of the tail: the lower part is semi-annulated with black and grey. Its cry is said to resemble the mewing of a great Cat. I cannot but observe, that this animal, described by Mr. Pennant from Vosmaer, seems to be very nearly allied to the grey variety of wild Cat figured by Mr. Schreber at plate 107. A.a. of his work on quadrupeds.

GUIGNA.

Felis Guigna. *Molina Chili.* 275.
Guigna Cat. *Pennant Quadr.* 1. *p.* 299.

This, which is described by Molina, in his account of Chili, is of the size of a common Cat, and inhabits forests. Its colour is tawny, marked

MARGAY.



SERVAL.

with round black spots five lines in diameter, extending along the back to the tail.

COLOROLO.

Felis Corololo. *Molina Chili. p.* 275.
Corololo. *Pennant Quadr. 1. p.* 299.

This also is described by Molina. Like the former species it inhabits the forests, and preys on birds and mice, and is said sometimes to infest poultry yards. Its colour is white, marked with irregular spots of black and yellow: the tail encircled with black quite to the point. The head and tail in this and the preceding animal are larger in proportion than in the common Cat.

SERVAL.

Felis Serval. *F. cauda subabbreviata, corpore supra fusco maculis nigris, orbitis ventreque albis. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 82.
Tawny-brown shortish-tailed C. whitish beneath, with the orbits of the eyes white, and the body marked with roundish dusky spots.
Chat-Pard. *Mem. pour servir à l'hist. des anim. 1. p.* 110.
Le Serval. *Buff. 13. p.* 233. *pl.* 34.
Serval. *Pennant Quadr. 1. p.* 301.

The Serval is a native of India and Tibet, and is an extremely fierce and rapacious animal. It resides principally among trees; leaping with great agility from one tree to another, and pursuing

birds, &c. This species appears to have been first described by the French Academicians in their work entitled *Mémoires pour servir à l'Histoire des Animaux.* The specimen there described measured two feet and a half from the nose to the tail, which was eight inches long. Its shape thick and strong: its general colour was fox-red or ferruginous, with the throat, abdomen, and insides of the legs, yellowish-white: it was spotted almost all over with black; the spots being of a long form on the back, and round on the sides, belly, and legs, where they were proportionally smaller and more numerous. The specimen described and figured in the Count de Buffon's Natural History differed only in a very few particulars, so slight as to leave no doubt of the identity of the species. It was excessively fierce and untameable.

AMERICAN SERVAL.

Chat Sauvage de la Caroline. *Buff. suppl. 3. p. 226.*
Mountain Lynx. *Pennant Quadr. 1. p. 300.*

It is to this animal, and not to the preceding, that Mr. Pennant applies the synonym of *Chat-Pard,* and supposes it to have been the species described by the French academicians of the last century. It has (says Mr. Pennant) upright pointed ears, marked with two brown transverse bars: colour of the head and whole upper part of the body reddish-brown, marked with long nar-

row stripes on the back, and with numerous round small spots on the legs and sides; the belly is whitish, and the chin of a pure white: the tail is barred with black: the length of the animal is two feet and a half. It inhabits North America. Mr. P. adds, that it grows very fat, and is considered as a mild and gentle animal. The species mentioned by Buffon, under the title of Chat sauvage de la Caroline, is supposed by Mr. Pennant to be the same animal; it is described by Buffon from a coloured drawing communicated to him by Mr. Peter Collinson, and is said to be of the size of a common Cat, and of a clear brown colour mixed with grey, and striped on the back and sides with longitudinal marks of black along its whole length, from head to tail: the tail was annulated with black and white, and the abdomen pale, and spotted with black: the legs were also spotted; and on each side the nose beneath the eyes was a large black spot.

Var.?

In the same volume of his supplement, Mr. Buffon gives a figure of an animal of this tribe under the name of *Chat sauvage de la Nouvelle Espagne.* It is said to be four feet long from nose to tail: its eyes rather small, and its tail rather short: its colour a blueish-grey, slightly speckled with blackish: its hair coarse, and sufficiently strong for painters' pencils with a firm point. According to Buffon's figure of this ani-

mal, the tail seems rather longer than in the former, and without the least appearance of bars. Mr. Pennant considers this as a distinct species, under the name of *New Spain Cat.*

CHAUS.

Felis Chaus. *F. cauda mediocri, apicem versus annulata, apice ipso nigra, corpore reliquo ex fuscescente luteo, auriculis extus brunneis apice nigro barbatis. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 82. *Guldenstedt nov. comm. petrop.* 1775. *p.* 483. *t.* 14, 15.

Brownish-yellow C. with moderately short tail, annulated towards the tip, with the tip itself black, and the ears brown, bearded with black at the tips.

Caspian Lynx. *Pennant Quadr. 1. p.* 304.

This species was first described by Professor Guldenstedt in the Petersburgh Transactions. It is an inhabitant of the woody and marshy tracts that border on the western side of the Caspian Sea, and in the Persian provinces of *Ghilan* and *Masenderan*, and is frequent about the mouth of the *Kur*, the ancient *Cyrus*. In manners, voice, and food, it agrees with the wild Cat. Its general length is about two feet six inches from the nose to the tail; but it has been known to measure three feet: the tail reaches only to the flexure of the legs. The colour of this species is a dusky yellowish-brown; the breast and belly much brighter, or more inclining to orange-colour: the tail is tipped with black, and has three obscure black bars at some distance from the tip; and on

the inside of the legs, near the bend of the knee, are two dusky bars: the ears are tufted with black hairs.

BAY LYNX.

Felis Rufa. *F. cauda abbreviata, subtus et apice alba, corpore rufo fusco maculato, auriculis apice barbatis. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 82.

Short-tailed bay C. obscurely spotted with black; with the tail white beneath and at the tip, and the ears bearded at the tips.

Bay Linx. *Pennant Quadr.* 1. *p.* 303.

This species is about twice the size of a large Cat, and is a native of North America. Its colour is a bright bay, obscurely marked with small dusky spots; the upper and under lip, throat, and whole under sides of the body and limbs, are white. From beneath each eye three curved blackish stripes pass down the cheeks: the upper part of the inside of the fore legs is marked by two black bars: the upper part of the tail is marked with four or five dusky bars, and that next the tip is black: the ears are sharp-pointed and tufted with long black hairs. This animal was first described by Guldenstedt. The hair is shorter and smoother than that of the common Lynx.

CARACAL.

Felis Caracal. *F. cauda subabbreviata, et omni corpore unicolore ex fuscescente brunneo, auriculis extus nigris, apice barbatis. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 82.

Reddish-brown shortish-tailed C. with the ears externally black, and tipped with long black hairs.

Siyah Gush. *Charleton, ex.* 21.

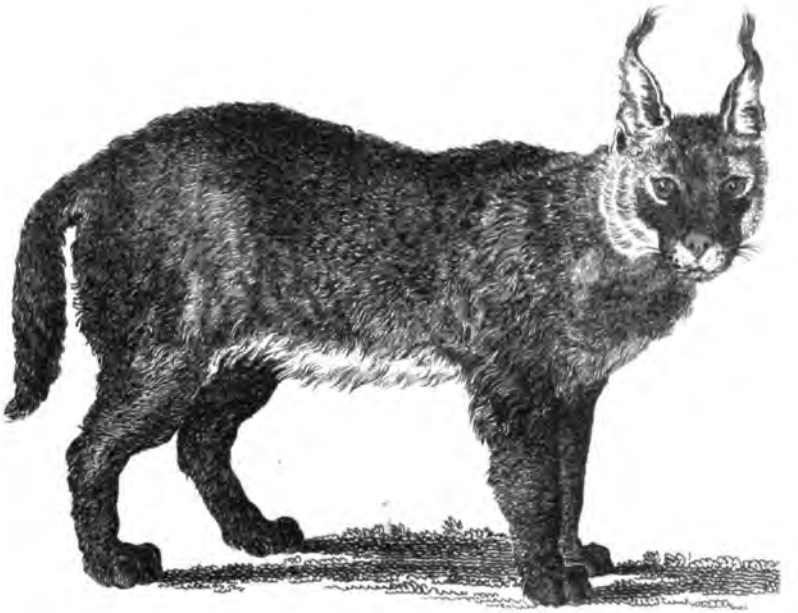
Le Caracal. *Buff.* 9. *p.* 262. *pl.* 24.

Persian Lynx. *Pennant Quadr.* 1. *p.* 305.

The Caracal or Persian Lynx is a native both of Asia and Africa; and it is said that in some parts of Persia it is tamed and made use of in the chase. It is an animal of great strength and fierceness: Dr. Charleton mentions one which killed a hound and tore it in pieces in an instant, notwithstanding the vigorous defence made by the Dog. It is used not only in the chase of the smaller quadrupeds, but of the larger kinds of birds, such as herons, cranes, pelicans, &c. which it is said to surprise with great address. When it has seized its prey, it lies motionless for some time upon it; holding it in its mouth. The Caracal is about the size of a Fox, but of a much stronger make: its colour is a pale reddish-brown; whitish beneath: the head is small, the face longish, the ears sharp and slender, of a blackish colour, and terminated by a tuft or pencil of long black hairs.

In Barbary the Caracal is said to be of a paler colour, or less red than in India; and, according to an observation communicated by Mr. Bruce to

COMMON LYNX.



CARACAL.

Hooper fc.

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the Count de Buffon, has the ears red on the outside, instead of black. This is considered by Mr. Pennant as a variety of the former, under the title of *Lybian Caracal.* He describes it thus: "Cat with short black tufts to the ears, which are white within: of a lively red without: tail white at the tip, annulated with four black rings, with some black marks behind the four legs. It is greatly inferior in size to the former; not larger than a common Cat. Inhabits both Lybia and Barbary."

In reality it is the species which Mr. Bruce names the *Booted Lynx,* and of which he has given an elegant figure in his appendix. It measures, according to Mr. Bruce, 22 inches from the nose to the tail, which is 13 inches long. The general colour is a pale reddish-grey, whitish beneath: the back of the ears reddish-brown; the insides lined with white hair: the tips penciled with long black hairs: on the back of all the feet runs a black band, which, on the fore feet, reaches two inches, and on the hind feet four inches up the leg: the tail is of the same colour as the back, at its origin, but towards the end grows whitish, and is marked with four black rings. He chiefly preys, according to Mr. Bruce, on Guinea-fowl, which are extremely plentiful in those parts. He has very much the appearance of a common cat; often mounts trees, and is said to be exceedingly fierce.

It is easy to perceive that this species must in

reality be perfectly distinct from the common Caracal.

COMMON LYNX.

Felis Lynx. *F. cauda abbreviata, obsolete annulata apice atra, capite et corpore ex albido rufo nigro maculato, auriculis apice barbatis. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 83.

Short-tailed rufous-grey C. slightly spotted with black, white beneath, with tip of the tail black, and ears terminated by long black hairs.

Lupus cervarius. *Gesn. Quadr.* 677.

Lynx. *Aldr. dig. p.* 90.

Le Lynx. *Buff.* 9. *p.* 231. *pl.* 21.

The Lynx, with some slight varieties as to size and colour, appears to be found in all the colder regions of Europe, Asia, and America, residing in thick woods, and preying on hares, deer, birds, and almost every kind of animal inhabitant. The general size of the Lynx is that of a middling Dog: the measure given by Mr. Pennant of the skin of a Russian Lynx is four feet six inches from head to tail: the tail measuring six inches. But the generality of Lynxes seem to be somewhat smaller than this. In colour the Lynx varies, but is generally of a pale-grey, with a very slight reddish tinge: the back and whole upper parts are obscurely spotted with small dusky or blackish marks. The throat, breast, and belly, are white: the tail white with a black tip: the ears tipped with pencils of long black hair. It is

an animal of a short or thickish form, and covered with a very thick soft fur. The fur of the Lynx is held in considerable estimation, and such skins as approach to a pale or whitish colour, and on which the spots are most distinct, are the most valued. The best are found in the neighbourhood of the Lake Balkash, and are said to sell for one pound sterling on the spot. The female produces three or four young at a birth, which she deposits in the deepest recesses of the woods. The Lynx is said to howl almost in the manner of a Wolf. In a state of captivity it seems extremely ferocious, frequently expressing its malignity by a kind of snarling scream, and is not be tamed.

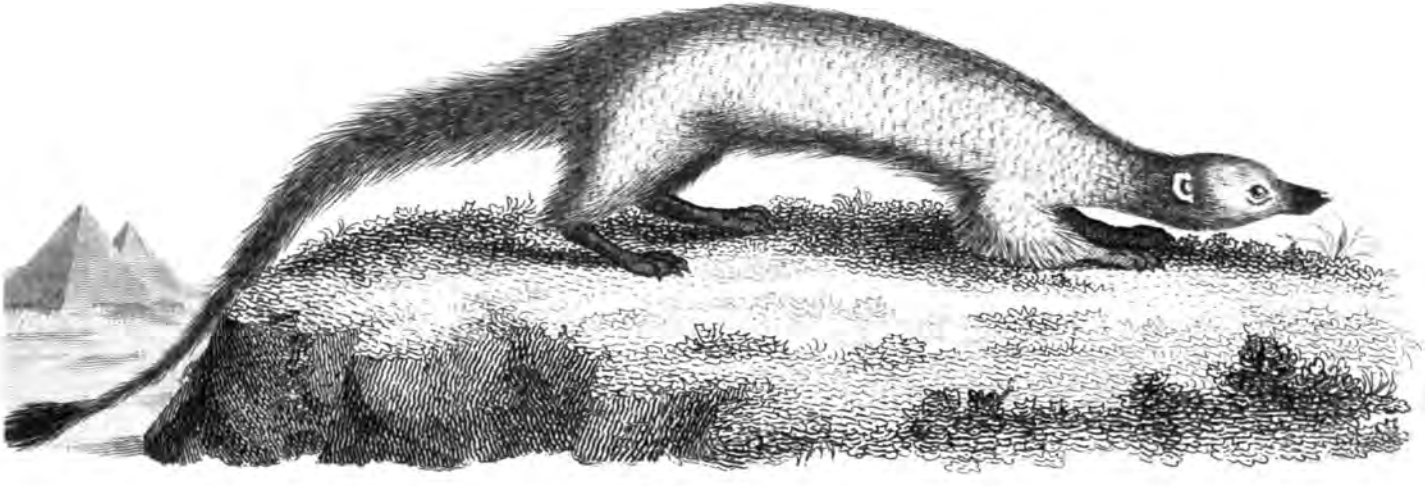
VIVERRA. WEESEL.

Generic Character.

Dentes Primores sex, subacuti.	*Cutting-teeth* six, sharpish.
Laniarii longiores.	*Canine-teeth* longer.
Molares plures quam tres.	*Tongue* in some smooth, in others aculeated backwards
Lingua in aliis lævis, in aliis retrorsum aculeata.	
Corpus elongatum.	*Body* of a lengthened form.

THIS genus comprehends all the animals of the Weesel kind; which seem to be somewhat unnecessarily separated by Linnæus into two distinct genera, under the titles of *Viverra* and *Mustela;* in which latter genus the Otters are also included. In this particular Mr. Pennant seems to have acted more judiciously than Linnæus. I shall, therefore, follow his example, and unite the two genera, preserving the Otters or Lutræ distinct from both.

The general character of the Weesel tribe is a certain slenderness and length of body; with a sharpened visage, short legs, and, in most species, a longish tail (though in some few it is short). The disposition of the teeth may be seen in the



EGYPTIAN ICHNEUMON.

generic character above given. It is proper to add, that in the Linnæan Mustelæ, the lower front-teeth do not stand in a regular or even line, but two are placed interiorly, or within the line of the rest. In most of the Linnæan Viverræ the tongue is aculeated backwards; but this is a character found likewise in some of the Mustelæ.

ICHNEUMON.

Viverra Ichneumon. *V. cauda e basi incrassata sensim attenuata apice floccoso, pollicibus remotiusculis. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 84.

Grey I. with distant thumbs, and tail gradually tapering from a thick base, and tufted at the end.

Mustela pilis ex albido et nigro variegatis vestita. *Briss. Quadr. p.* 181.

Ichneumon que les Egyptiens nomment Rat de Pharaon. *Belon. obs. p.* 95.

Ichneumon. *Gesn. Quadr.* 566. *Aldr. dig. p.* 298.

Var. ?

Viverra Mungo. *V. cauda e basi crassa sensim attenuata non floccosa, pollicibus remotiusculis. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 84.

Rufous-grey I. with distant thumbs, and untufted tail, gradually tapering from a thick base.

Viverra Ichneumon β. *Lin. Syst. Nat. ed.* 12. *p.* 63.

Mustela glauca. *Lin Syst. Nat. ed.* 5. *Am. acad.* 2. *p.* 109.

Viverra ex griseo rubescens. *Briss. Quadr. p.* 177.

Mustela seu Viverra Indis Mangutia. *Kæmpf. am. ex.* 574.

Indian Ichneumon. *Edwards, pl.* 199.

Mangouste. *Buff.* 13. *p.* 150. *pl.* 19.

The Ichneumon is a species of which there seem to be two distinct varieties, one of which is

a native of India, and the other of Africa. Both agree in their general appearance, but the Ægyptian variety is considerably larger than the Indian; measuring more than forty inches from the nose to the end of the tail; whereas the Indian Ichneumon scarce exceeds two thirds of this length: exclusive of size alone, the Ægyptian Ichneumon is distinguished by having the tail slightly tufted at the end, which the other has not; and from this circumstance it is placed, in the Gmelinian edition of the Systema Naturæ, as a distinct species. The Ichneumon is of a pale reddish-grey colour, each hair being mottled with brown or dusky, so that the whole appears speckled in the manner of the hair on some of the larger Baboons. The eyes are of a bright red or flame-colour: the ears rounded, and almost naked: the nose long and slender: the body rather thicker than in most others of this genus; and the tail is very thick at the base, and from thence gradually tapers almost to a point: the legs are short: the hair on the whole animal is hard and coarse, and it varies somewhat as to the depth and cast of its colours in different individuals. In India, but still more in Ægypt, the Ichneumon has always been considered as one of the most useful and estimable of animals; since it is an inveterate enemy to serpents, rats, and other noxious creatures which infest those regions. In India it attacks, with the greatest eagerness and courage, that most dreadful reptile, the Cobra de Capello, or hooded Snake, and easily destroys it.

It also diligently seeks for the eggs of crocodiles; for which reason, as well as for its general usefulness in destroying all manner of troublesome reptiles, it was held in such a high degree of veneration by the ancient Ægpytians as to be regarded in the light of a minor deity, or one of those benevolent beings proceeding from the Parent of the universe. For the purposes above specified it is still domesticated by the Indians and Ægyptians, in the same manner as the Cat in Europe; and it has also the merit of being easily tamed, and of performing all the services of the Cat with a still greater degree of vigor and alacrity. When in pursuit of prey, it sometimes springs suddenly upon it with the greatest agility, and, at other times, will glide along the ground like a Serpent, without raising its body, till it arrives at a proper distance for its intended attack. Like many other animals of this tribe, it is a most dangerous enemy to several creatures larger than itself; over which it gains a ready victory, by fastening itself upon them, and sucking their blood. In a wild state it is said principally to frequent the banks of rivers, and, in times of flood, to approach the higher grounds, and inhabited places, in quest of prey. It is reported to swim and dive occasionally, in the manner of the Otter, and to continue beneath the water for a great length of time.

The Ichneumon is found not only in various parts of India, but in the Indian islands, as Ceylon and others. It also occurs in many parts of

Africa besides Ægypt, as in Barbary, and at the Cape of Good Hope, &c. As it is a native of warm countries, it is, of course, greatly injured by a removal to the colder regions of Europe, and generally falls a victim to the alteration of climate.

CAFFRARIAN WEESEL.

Viverra Cafra. *V. cauda e basi crassa sensim attenuata apice atra. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 85. *Schreber saeugth. 3. p.* 439.

Yellowish-brown W. with tail gradually tapering from a thick base, and black at the tip.

This species, in its general form, resembles the Polecat, but is nearly of the length of an Otter. Its colour, on all parts, except the tip of the tail, which is black, is a mixture of yellow-brown and black, so as to resemble the colour of the Aguti *, but rather deeper, especially on the back: the hair is of a strong and glossy nature: the feet are blackish: the ears very short, and covered with woolly fur. This animal is described by Mr. Schreber from a dried skin which was sent to Dr. Pallas. It is a native of the Cape of Good Hope.

* Long-nosed Cavy. *Pennant.*

ZENIC.

Viverra Zenic. *V. tetradactyla, corpore griseo, fasciis decem transversis nigris, cauda ex atro spadicea, versus apicem nigra. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 85.

Four-toed grey W. with ten transverse black bands on the body, and deep chesnut-coloured tail, black towards the tip.

Le Zenik des Hottentots. *Sonnerat voy. 2. p.* 145. *pl.* 92.

This, which is described by Sonnerat, is a Caffrarian species, and is about the size of a water-rat. The snout is long, and in each jaw are two incisive and six canine teeth*: the whole animal is of a reddish-grey colour, and is marked by ten transverse black bands over the back, and reaching downwards on each side, almost as in the Zebra: the tail, which is scarce the length of the body, is slender, and of a deep ferruginous-colour for three fourths of its length, the remainder being black. Mr. Sonnerat says nothing of this animal's manners; but we may conclude that it resembles, in this respect, the rest of its congeners. It has five toes on each foot; and the claws on the fore feet are very long and almost strait: those of the hind feet are small and crooked.

* By canine-teeth Mr. Sonnerat must be supposed merely to mean teeth of a sharpened form.

SURIKATE.

Viverra Surikatta. *V. grisea, naso producto mobili, pedibus tetradactylis, cauda ferruginea, apice nigro.*

Grey-brown W. with long moveable snout, four-toed feet, and ferruginous tail, black at the tip.

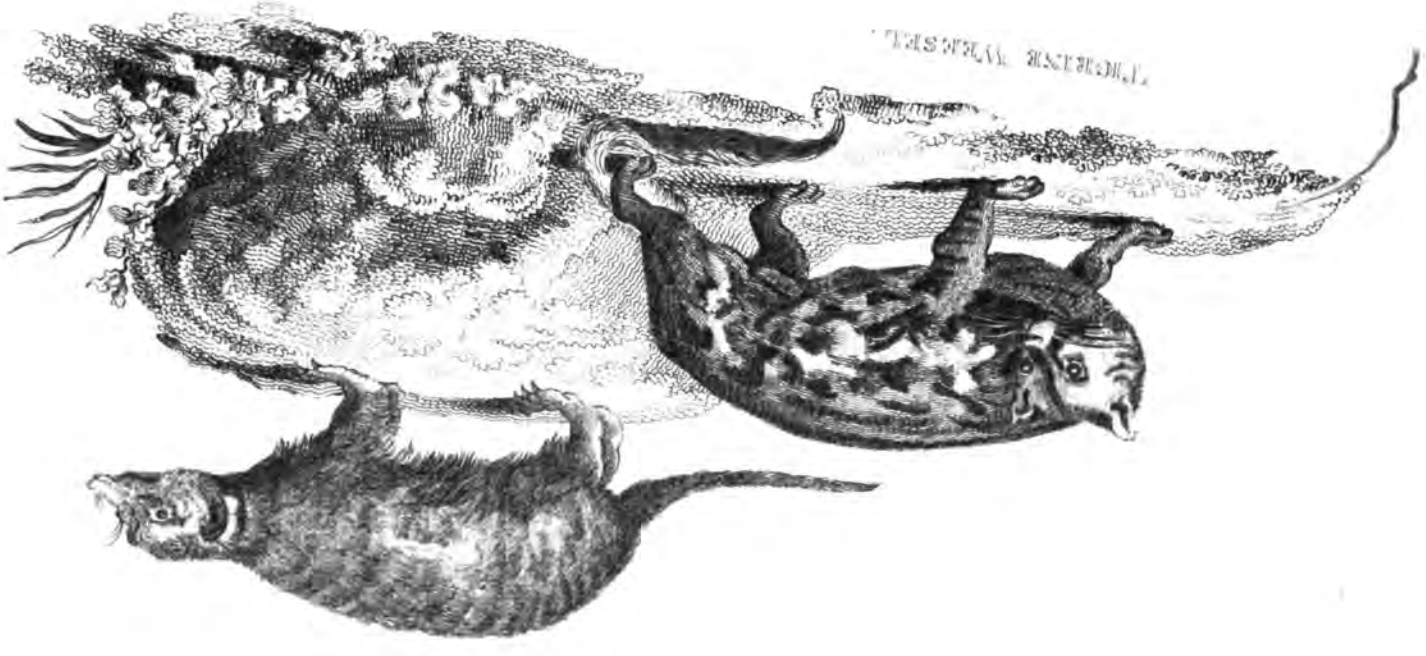
Viverra tetradactyla. *V. pedibus tetradactylis, naso producto mobili. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 85.

Suricate. *Buff.* 13. *p.* 72. *pl.* 8.

Viverra tetradactyla. *Miller, Cimel. Phys. t.* 20.

Four-toed Weesel. *Pennant Quadr.* 2. *p.* 57.

The Surikate is distinguished by a long sharp-pointed nose, depressed head, and inflated cheeks: the upper jaw is much longer than the lower, and on its upper part is black: the eyes are also surrounded by black: the ears are small and rounded: the tongue is oblong, blunt, and aculeated backwards: the length of the animal, exclusive of the tail, is about a foot; and of the tail about eight inches: the legs are short: the claws on the fore feet much exceed in length those of the hind feet. The general colour of the Surikate is a deep grey; the tail is subferruginous, tipped with black. It is an inhabitant of the Cape of Good Hope, where it is called Meer-rat. It feeds on flesh, and preys on mice, and other small animals. It commonly sits erect in the manner of a Squirrel, and, when pleased, makes a rattling noise with its tail, for which reason the Dutch inhabitants of the Cape call it Klapper-maus. It is also found in the island of Java, where it is named Surikatje by the Dutch, on account of a



peculiarly acid scent, which it is said to emit. It is an animal of a capricious disposition when in a state of captivity. In having only four toes, it differs from most of this tribe.

COATI-MONDI.

Viverra Nasua. *V. cauda albo annulata, naso producto mobili. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 86.
Rufous W. with tail annulated with white, and lengthened moveable snout.
Ursus naso producto et mobili, cauda annulatim variegata. *Briss. Quadr. p.* 190.
Coati. *Marcgr. Bras. p.* 228.
Coati Mondi. *Act. Paris. t.* 3. *P.* 3. *p* 17. *t.* 37.
Le Coati noiratre. *Buff.* 8. *pl.* 47.
Brasilian Weesel. *Pennant Quadr.* 2. *p.* 61.

THE size of this animal is at least equal to that of a Cat. Its general colour is a cinereous brown, or ash-colour, with a cast of reddish: the tail, which is of very considerable length, is annulated with distinct circles of black: its most remarkable character is the long, flexible snout, somewhat truncated at the end. By the assistance of this it turns up the earth, in the manner of a Hog, in quest of earth-worms, &c. Like the Polecat, it also preys on the smaller quadrupeds, birds, &c. It is a native of South America, and seems to have been first described by Marcgrave, in his History of Brasil. There is a particularity, sometimes observable in this animal, which seems worthy of notice, viz. a kind

of prolongation of the skin at the back of the heel into several horny processes of about a quarter of an inch in length: these in some specimens are scarce visible. The tongue is marked on the upper part with several furrows, so disposed as to resemble the fibres of a leaf.

Var.?

COATI-MONDI.

Viverra Narica. *V. subfusca, cauda concolore, naso producto mobili. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 86.

Brown W. with tail of the same colour, and with lengthened moveable snout.

Le Coati brun. *Buff.* 8. *pl.* 48.

Dusky W. Brasilian W. var. *β. Pennant Quadr.* 2. *p.* 62.

This, in its general appearance, so much resembles the preceding, that it has been considered by many naturalists as a variety only. It is, however, rather larger than the former, of a browner colour, and without any annuli, or, at least, without very distinct variegations on the tail. In its manners it agrees with the former: it burrows into the ground so expeditiously as soon to conceal its whole body; feeds both on animal and vegetable substances, and is said occasionally to go into the water. It also climbs trees.

STRIATED WEESEL, *var.*

CHINCHE.

——STRIATED WEESEL

COASSE.

Viverra Vulpecula. *V. tota castanea, naso producto. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 87.
Dark chesnut-coloured W. with lengthened snout.
Coasse. *Buff. 13. p.* 288. *pl.* 38.

This animal is about the size of the Polecat; measuring eighteen inches from nose to tail: the tail is long and full of hair: the whole animal is of a deep or blackish chocolate-colour, but the tail is sometimes mixed with white. It is a native of Mexico and many other parts of America, and possesses the power of emitting, when attacked or irritated, such powerfully offensive effluvia, as, in most instances, effectually to discomfit and repel its pursuers.

STRIATED WEESEL.

Viverra Striata.
Viverra Putorius. *V. nigricans, lineis quinque dorsalibus parallelis albis. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 87.
Blackish W. with five parallel, white, dorsal stripes.
Mustela nigra, tæniis in dorso albis. *Briss. Quadr. p.* 181.
Striated Weesel. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p.* 64.
Conepate. *Buff.* 83. *p.* 288. *pl.* 40.

It has been imagined, and not without a degree of probability, that this animal is the female of the former. It is of the same size and general aspect, but is distinguished by five parallel longi-

tudinal white stripes on the back: the tail very bushy or full of hair. In the different specimens of this animal there is some slight variation observable in the proportion of the dorsal stripes, as well as in the colour of the tail, which is sometimes marked with a pair of lateral white bands, and sometimes almost entirely white. It its manners and horrible vapour, when irritated, it perfectly agrees with the preceding, as well as with the two succeeding species; and the same description of this offensive quality may be applied to all the four. If the accounts given of this odious vapour are not aggravated by the abhorrent recollection of those who have experienced its effects, every other ill smell which nature can produce, is surpassed by the overpowering fœtor of these extraordinary quadrupeds. In consequence of the dreadful emanation the dogs are said to relinquish their pursuit, and the men to fly with precipitation from the tainted spot: but if unfortunately the least particle of the fluid which the animal commonly discharges at this juncture, should happen to light on the clothes of the hunter, he becomes a general nuisance wherever he appears. and is obliged to divest himself of his dress, and practise all the arts of ablution, in order to be restored to the society of mankind.

To add to the history of these strange circumstances, it is affirmed that the animal is sometimes tamed, and rendered domestic; in which state it is pretended that it never emits its pestilential vapour unless greatly displeased or irritated: if

this be case, it ought surely to be treated, as an eminent zoologist has well observed, with the highest attention.

VAR.

Among some miscellaneous plates of animals, published a few years ago by Mr. Catton, is a representation of what seems to be a variety of the above species; having only four white bands on the back, and the tail almost entirely white: a patch of white appears below each ear, and a small triangular white spot on the forehead. In the description accompanying the plate the animal is said to have measured twelve inches from nose to tail, and to have been brought from Bengal.

CONEPATL.

Viverra Conepatl. *V. nigricans, lineis duabus albis dorsalibus per caudam productis. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 88.

Blackish W. with two white dorsal lines extending along the tail.

Conepatl, seu vulpecula puerilis. *Hernand mex. p.* 232.

Of this species very little more than its mere name and descriptive character seems to be known. It is a native of New Spain, and, perhaps, may be nothing more than a variety of the preceding.

CHINCHE.

Viverra Mephitica. *V. fusca dorso albo, linea longitudinali nigra.*
Brown W. with white back marked with a longitudinal black stripe.
Viverra Mephitis. *Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 88.
Mephitic Weesel. *Museum Leverianum, No.* 4. *p.* 173. *pl.* 6.
Le Chinche. *Buff.* 13. *p.* 294. *pl.* 39.

THIS species is rather smaller than the former species. The head is small and flat, and the snout sharp and lengthened. The whole animal is of a blackish chocolate-brown, with a broad bed of white on the back, divided by a stripe of black, which sometimes passes along the whole length of the back, and sometimes not much more than half way from the tail, which is white at the tip and sides, with the remainder like the body; but it also varies with the tail all white or parti-coloured: along the forehead is a narrow white stripe reaching towards the neck. In manners and smell this resembles the two preceding animals.

CHINGE.

Viverra Chinge. *V. nigra, cæruleo nitens, vitta macularum albarum a capite ad caudam producta.*
Black W. with changeable cast of blue, with a row of white spots from head to tail.
Chinge. *Molina Chili.* 269.

THIS, according to Molina, its first describer, seems in shape and general form to resemble the

Chinche, or V. Mephitica, but is of a black colour with a changeable cast of blue, and has along the back a row of round white spots, reaching from head to tail: the head is long, the ears large, well covered with hair, and pendulous: the hind legs longer than the fore. It is a native of Chili. It generally carries its head low, its back arched, and its tail, which is very bushy, spead over its back like that of a Squirrel. In its manners and vapour it is said to agree with those before described. Molina affirms that the smell proceeds from a certain greenish oil, ejected from a follicle or receptacle near the tail. The Indians are said to value the skin of this species on account of its beauty, and to use it for various purposes, quilts, &c. &c.

ZORILLA.

Viverra Zorilla. *V. albo nigroque varia. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 88.
W. variegated with black and white.
Zorilla. *Buff. 13. p.* 289. *pl.* 41.

THIS species is smaller than the three preceding, and is a native of Peru and other parts of South America. The ground-colour is black, upon which are three longitudinal white bands, extending from the head to the middle of the back, and other transverse white bands on the flanks, the rump, and the origin of the tail, which is black as far as the middle, and then white to

the extremity; it is as bushy and elegant as that of the Mephitic Weesel. The same faculty is ascribed to this as to the three former species.

MAPURITO.

Viverra Mapurito. *V. nigra, fascia nivea a fronte ad dorsi medium producta, auriculis nullis. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 88.
Black W. with snow-white band from the forehead to the middle of the back, and without any external ears.
Viverra Putorius. *Mutis. Act. Holm.* 1769. *p.* 68.

This is said to measure twenty inches to the tail, which is nine inches long, and whitish at the tip. It inhabits New Spain, and burrows under ground, feeding on worms and insects. Perhaps no other than a variety of the Mephitic Weesel.

GRISON.

Viverra Vittata. *V. nigricans, vitta alba ab humeris ad frontem producta. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 88.
Blackish W. with a broad white band from the forehead to each shoulder.
Grison. *Buff. ed. Allamand.* 15. *p.* 65. *pl.* 8.
Mouffette du Chili? *Buff. suppl.* 7. *p.* 233. *pl.* 57.?

The lengtlr of the Grison from nose to tail is about seven inches, and the tail is rather more than half the length of the body. The upper part of the body is of a deep brown, each hair

tipped with white, which gives a grey or hoary appearance; the nose, throat, and whole under side of the animal, as well as the legs and thighs, black: the head is large, and the ears broad and short: across the forehead extends a broad white line, passing over the eyes and reaching as far as the shoulders. It is a native of Surinam. The specimen above described was supposed to have been young or half-grown, so that its proper measure seems not clearly understood. The animal figured in the 7th vol. of Buffon's supplement, pl. 57. appears so extremely nearly allied to the above, that I cannot but consider it as the same species. It was of a blackish-brown colour, with a white band from the forehead on each side the back: the tail white, villous, and shortish.

QUASJE.

Viverra Quasje. *V. castanea, subtus flavescens, naso producto cauda annulata. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 87.
Chesnut-coloured W. yellowish beneath, with lengthened moveable snout, and annulated tail.

This is said to be a native of Surinam, burrowing under ground, and living on worms, insects, fruits, &c. it is, perhaps, no other than some variety of the Coati-Mondi or Brasilian Weesel.

CEYLONESE WEESEL.

Viverra Zeylanica. *V. cinerea fusco mista, infra albida. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 89. *Schreber saeugth. p.* 451.
Cinereous W. mixed with grey, whitish beneath.

This species in its habit or general appearance, as well as in size, resembles the Martin: the general colour is grey, shaded with brown; deepest on the back and tail, beneath lighter or whitish: the tail is as long as the body; the vibrissæ or whiskers white; the lower lip indented; the feet five-toed, with rather retractile claws: the tongue warted. Mr. Schreber is not without some suspicion that this species may be the same with the Ceylonese Dog (Chien sauvage de Ceylon of Vosmaer).

CAPE WEESEL.

Viverra Capensis. *V. nigra, dorso griseo albo-marginato. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 89.
Black W. with grey back edged with white.
Mustela subfusca, linea longitudinali alba per utrumque latus ducta. *Brown jam. p.* 486. *n.* 1.?
Stinkbinksen. *Kolbe Vorgeb.* 1. 167.
Blaireau puant. *La Caille voyag. p.* 182.
Ratel Weesel. *Pennant Quadr.* 2. *p.* 66.

This is one of the larger animals of the genus, measuring two feet from nose to tail, which is eight inches long. Its colour is a cinereous grey above, and brownish-black below; the two

colours being separated along the whole length of the animal, from the base of the nose to the tail, by a stripe of black and white: the ears are scarce visible: the tail rather thick; the legs short, and the head large; the snout short and somewhat pointed: the body seems of a thicker form than is usual in this genus.

This animal, when pursued, ejects a fetid liquid accompanied by a smell as insufferable as that of some of the American Weesels or Skunks, and productive of the same effects.

HONEY WEESEL.

Viverra Mellivora. *V. dorso cinereo, fascia laterali nigra, abdomine nigro, unguibus longis subtus cavis, fossoriis. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 91.

W. with cinereous back, with a black lateral band; the abdomen black; the claws long and formed for burrowing.

Ratel. *Sparrm. act. Stockh.* 1777. *t.* 4. *f.* 3.

This, according to Dr. Sparrman, feeds principally on the honey of wild bees about the Cape of Good Hope, which it finds in the holes of Jerboas, Rabbits, and other animals, as well as in hollow trees. To this, its most acceptable food, it is guided, as Dr. Sparrman tells us, by a bird called the Honey-Guide (Cuculus Indicator), which utters a shrill note whenever it discovers bees, on which it preys. This account of Sparrman's is greatly ridiculed by Mr. Bruce in his Abyssinian travels. The Honey Weesel has a

remarkably tough and loose skin, with thick hair: this is supposed to be given it as a natural defence against the stings of the bees. Mr. Pennant seems to have confounded this animal with the *V. Capensis*, described in the preceding article. Both species, indeed, are said to feed on honey, but Sparrman makes no mention of any offensive effluvia in his description.

CIVET.

Viverra Civetta. *V. cauda supcrius maculata, versus apicem fusca, juba castanea, dorso cinereo fuscoque maculato. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 89.

Ash-coloured W. spotted with black, with chesnut-coloured mane, and dusky tail spotted towards the base.

Meles fasciis et maculis albis, nigris & rufescentibus variegata. *Briss. Quadr. p.* 186.

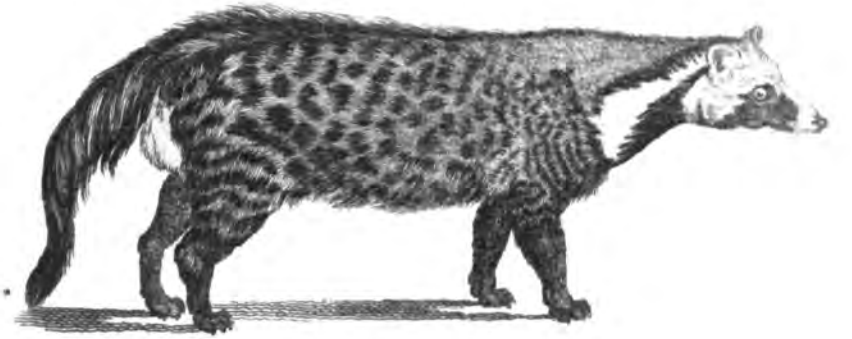
Felis Zibethi. *Gesn. Quadr. p.* 836. *Aldr. dig.* 342.

Civette. *Buff. 9. p.* 299. *pl.* 34.

The Viverra Civetta, commonly known by the name of the Civet Cat, is a native of several parts of Africa and India. The general length of this animal, from nose to tail, is something more than two feet, and the tail measures fourteen inches. The ground-colour of the body is yellowish ash-grey, marked with large blackish or dusky spots, disposed in longitudinal rows on each side, and sometimes a tinge of ferruginous appears intermixed: the hair is coarse, and along the top of the back stands up, so as to form a

GRISON.

ZIBET.



CIVET.

sort of mane: the head is of a lengthened or sharpish form; with short rounded ears: the eyes are of a bright sky-blue: the tip of the nose black: the sides of the face, chin, breast, legs, and feet, are black; the remainder of the face, and part of the sides of the neck, are of a yellowish-white; from each ear are three black stripes, terminating at the throat and shoulders: the tail is generally black, but sometimes is marked with pale or whitish spots on each side the base. It is an animal of a wild disposition, and lives in the usual manner of others of this genus, preying on birds, the smaller quadrupeds, &c. It is remarkable for the production of the drug called civet (sometimes erroneously confounded with musk). This substance is a secretion formed in a large double glandular receptacle, situated at some little distance beneath the tail, and which the animal empties spontaneously. When the Civet Cats are kept in a state of confinement (as is usual with the perfumers at Amsterdam and other places), they are placed, from time to time, in strong wooden cages or receptacles, so constructed as to prevent the creature from turning round and biting the person employed in collecting the secreted substance: this operation is said to be generally performed twice a week, and is done by scraping out the civet with a small spatula or spoon. This substance is of a yellowish colour, and of the consistence of an unguent; of an extremely strong and even unpleasant odour when fresh, so as sometimes to cause giddiness

and headach; but becomes more agreeable by keeping *: the quantity obtained each time amounts to about a dram.

Civet, though an article in the more ancient materia medica, and though still employed by the oriental physicians, is with us chiefly used in perfumes. It has a very fragrant smell, and a subacrid taste: it unites readily with oils, both expressed and distilled; in watery or spirituous menstrua it does not dissolve, but impregnates the fluids strongly with its odour. It may, however, be made to unite with, or be soluble in water, by means of rubbing with mucilages.

ZIBET.

Viverra Zibetha. *V. cauda annulata, dorso cinereo nigroque undatim striato. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 89.
Ash-grey W. with black undulations and annulated tail.
Felis Zibethi. *Gesn. Quadr.* 837.
Animal Zibethi, vel Hyæna veterum Bellonii. *Aldr. dig.* 343.
Zibet. *Buff.* 9. *p.* 299. *pl.* 31.

This, which was figured as a variety by Gesner, and more precisely discriminated by Buffon, seems to be considered by modern naturalists as a distinct species; Mr. Pennant, however, even in his last edition, still regards it as the same with the

* This is denied by the French academicians of the last century, who say, that after keeping it a year it seemed to smell exactly as at first.

preceding, from which, indeed, it seems to differ in so few particulars as still to leave the determination difficult. The Zibet is chiefly found in India and the Indian islands. Its general aspect is the same with the former species, but its snout is somewhat sharper; its tail longer, and, instead of being black or dusky, with merely a few whitish patches at the base, is strongly semi-annulated or banded with alternate black and white spaces: there is no perceptible mane on the back, nor any large brown or blackish patch under the eyes, as in the former animal: the hair also is shorter and softer than in the preceding kind, and the variegations are more disposed in the form of undulations than spots, especially on the limbs. In short, this species may be called the Indian, and the former the African, Civet Cat. In disposition and manners they both seem to agree; as well as in the secretion of the perfume before described, which is collected from both animals in the same manner.

THREE-STRIPED WEESEL.

Viverra Hermaphrodita. *V. cauda elongata apice atra striis tribus dorsalibus nigris. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 90.
Dark-grey W. with three black dorsal stripes, and long tail with black tip
Viverra hermaphrodita Pallas. *Schreb. Quadr. p.* 426.

THIS species is described by Mr. Schreber from Dr. Pallas. Its size is between that of the Civet and the Genet: its colour a dark ash-grey, with three black dorsal stripes: the snout, and face beyond the eyes, the throat, and the feet, are black: the tip of the tail black also: beneath the eyes is a whitish spot, and the under side of the body is lighter than the upper. It is a native of Barbary.

GENET.

Viverra Genetta. *V. cauda annulata corpore fulvo-nigricante maculato. Lin. Syst. Nat. p.* 65.
Fulvous-grey W. with the body marked with rows of black spots, and annulated tail.
Genette. *Belon. obs. p.* 73. *Gesn. Quadr.* 549.
Genette. *Buff. 9. p.* 343. *pl.* 36.

THE Genet is one of the most beautiful animals of this genus. It is about the size of a very small Cat, but is of a longer form, with a sharp-pointed snout, upright ears, slightly pointed, and very long tail. The colour of the Genet is commonly a pale reddish-grey, with a black or dusky

line running along the back, where the hair is rather longer than on the other parts, and forms the appearance of a very slight mane: along the sides of the body run several rows of roundish black spots, which sometimes incline a little to a squarish form: the muzzle is dusky; beneath each eye is a white spot: the cheeks, sides of the neck, and the limbs, are spotted in a proportionally smaller pattern than the body, and the tail is annulated with black.

The Genet is an animal of a mild disposition, and easily tamed. In various parts of the east, as well as at Constantinople, it is domesticated like the Cat, and is said to be equal, or superior, to that animal in clearing houses from rats and mice. It is a cleanly animal, and has a slight musky smell. It is a native of the western parts of Asia, but is said likewise to occur in Spain, and even occasionally in some parts of France.

VAR.?

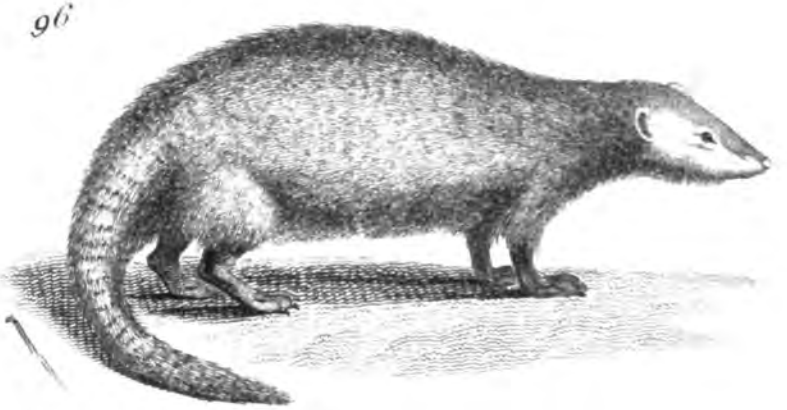
The French variety, however, according to the description and figure of the Count de Buffon, is far less elegantly and distinctly spotted than the Oriental Genet, and, indeed, Mr. Pennant, in his History of Quadrupeds, considers it as a distinct species, under the name of *Pilosello*. According to Mr. Pennant, the Pilosello is smaller than a Ferret, and is found about the rock of Gibraltar, and some parts of Spain and France. Its prevailing tinge is rust-colour, with rather irregular

black spots: the nose deep brown; the tail tawny, slightly annulated with black; the face, chin, and under side of the neck, cinereous, and a dark line runs up the forehead.

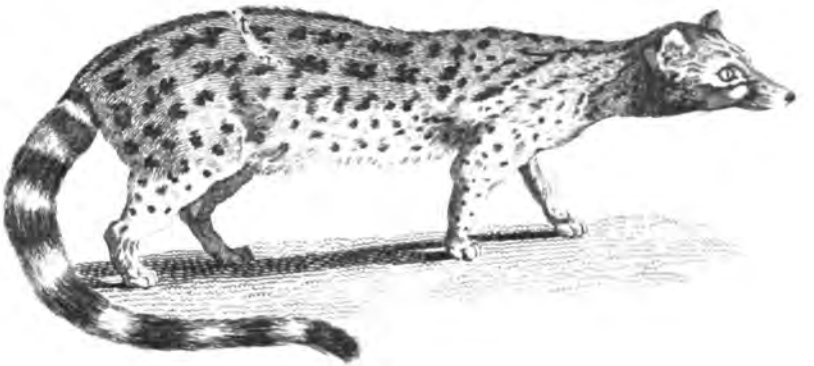
FOSSANE.

Viverra Fossa. *V. cauda annulata, corpore cinereo nigro maculato. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 91.
Ash-coloured W. spotted with black, and with annulated tail.
Fossane. *Buff. 13. p. 163. pl. 29.*
Fossane Weesel. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 75.*

The Fossane appears to be so nearly allied to the Genet, that it might almost pass for a variety of that animal. Its colours, however, are somewhat bolder or more contrasted than in the Genet, and the rows of spots along the sides still more regularly disposed. Beneath and above each eye is commonly a white patch; and from the hind parts of the head towards the back and shoulders run four black lines. The whole under side of the body is of a dingy white: the tail is annulated with black and white. This animal is a native of Madagascar, Guinea, Bengal, Cochinchina, and the Philippine islands. It is said to be possessed of considerable fierceness, and to be difficultly tamed. In destroys poultry in the manner of the common Weesel. When young it is said to be good food. Its size is that of the Genet.



INDIAN ICHNEUMON.



GENET.

PREHENSILE WEESEL.

Viverra Caudivolvula. *V. flava nigro-mixta, cauda unicolore prehensili. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 91.*
Yellow W. shaded with dusky, with prehensile tail.
Yellow Macauco. *Pennant Synops. Quadr. p. 138.*
Yellow Weesel. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 59.*
Le Kinkajou Potot. *Buff. suppl. 3. p. 251. pl. 51.*

This animal was first described by Mr. Pennant in his Synopsis of Quadrupeds, under the name of the Yellow Macauco, a title which was afterwards changed to that of Yellow Weesel, in which genus it forms a kind of anomalous species, having a prehensile tail. It is nineteen inches in length from the nose to the tail, which is seventeen inches long. The nose is short and dusky; the eyes small; the ears short, broad, and flapping, and placed at a great distance from each other: the head flat and broad; the cheeks swelling out; the tongue very long: the legs and thighs short and thick; with five toes to each foot; claws large, slightly hooked, and flesh-coloured. Its colour yellow, shaded with dusky. A blackish or dusky list runs down the back from head to tail, and a similar one half way down the belly. This animal is of gentle manners, active and playful, and hangs by its tail occasionally, in the manner of the prehensile-tailed Monkies. It is supposed to be a native of Jamaica.

Var.?

KINKAJOU.

Le Kinkajou. *Buff. suppl. 3. p. 245. pl. 50.*
Mexican Weesel. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 60.*

THIS, which is supposed by Buffon to be the same animal with the preceding, is by Mr. Pennant considered as a distinct species. It is, according to the measures given by Buffon, a larger animal than the preceding, but so great is the general agreement between the two, that it seems not very easy to conceive a specific difference. The general colour is the same in both; the tail in both is prehensile: the tongue extremely long: the manners in both the same. This mentioned by Buffon would seize on birds, and suck the blood without tearing its prey. It was fond of fruits and vegetables of several kinds, and was delighted with sugar and various sweets. It slept much by day, and was lively during the night: had the actions of a Monkey: had a variety of cries, sometimes a kind of barking note, at other times hissing, or variously modified. It was brought from New Spain.

FASCIATED WEESEL.

MALACCA WEESEL.

ZENIC.

FASCIATED WEESEL.

Viverra Fasciata. *V. caudæ plus longis nigris et rufescentibus, corpore griseo fasciis sex nigris longitudinalibus vario, subtus albo. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 92.*

Grey W. with six longitudinal black bands.

Chat sauvage à bandes noires des Indes. *Sonner. voy. 2. p. 143. pl. 90.*

This, says Mons. Sonnerat, measures two feet from head to tail, which is nine inches long: it has two cutting-teeth in each jaw; those of the inferior being the strongest: sixteen canine-teeth in each jaw: fives toes on each foot, with strong crooked claws: body long, covered with even and close-set hair; legs short; tail slender, almost as long as the body, and ending in a point, like that of a Cat: it is marked with black and reddish hairs, which are longer than those of the body. This creature is of a grey-colour, tinged with reddish on the lower parts of the head, neck, legs, and feet: the belly is white. On the body are six bands of black, four of which are strait, beginning at the back of the head, and going along the body to the tail, where they terminate: the two others, which are on each side the belly, are waved as it were: they begin at the shoulders, and terminate by rounding off on the hind parts; and beneath their termination is a smaller bifid one over the thigh. The eyes are lively, and of a yellow-colour, with a cast of red: the pupil, in some views, appearing oblong. This species is a

native of India, and was first described and figured by Mons. Sonnerat.

MALACCA WEESEL.

Viverra Malaccensis. *V. cauda nigro annulata elongata, corpore griseo supra nigro-guttato, maculis quatuor rotundis supra oculos, fasciis colli dorsique tribus nigris. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 92.

Grey W. with longitudinal black stripes on the neck and rump, and round black spots on the sides.

La Civette de Malacca. *Sonner. voy.* 2. *p.* 144. *pl.* 91.

This, a native of Malacca, is one of those animals which we owe to the assiduity of Mons. Sonnerat. He says it is of the size of a domestic Cat, and that it has the same character and manners. The whole animal is of a pearl-grey, deepest on the upper parts: the snout is longish; the ears small and round, and the limbs short; the claws five in number, weak, crooked, and retractile. The top of the head is black; and it has four round black spots above each eye, situated longitudinally: the eyes are small and black; the pupil, in some views, oblong. Over the neck run three longitudinal black bands, commencing behind the head, and terminating at the shoulders; and three other bands commence over the loins and terminate at the tail: there is also another band running along the middle of the belly. On each side the body and thighs are thirty round black

spots, symmetrically arranged in rows, viz. three rows on each side, and one over the back: the tail, which is longer than the body, is marked with a great many alternate black and grey circles. From the above description, as well as from Sonnerat's figure, it appears that this animal is much allied to the Genet and the Fossane. Mr. Sonnerat tells us it lives by chase; and is very nimble in mounting trees, &c. it is a fierce creature, and if only wounded, when shot at, will turn back and attack the aggressor. It diffuses a powerful musky odour, which is owing to a peculiar receptacle like that of the Civet Cat and some others of this genus. The Malays collect the fluid thus secreted, and pretend that it is stimulant and stomachic. It is much esteemed for these qualities by the Chinese, who purchase it of the Malays.

The animal described and figured in the 7th supplemental volume of Buffon, under the title of *Genette du Cap de Bonne Esperance*, appears to me to be no other than a variety of the above species. It is said to have been communicated by Mons. Sonnerat by the name of *Chat musqué du Cap de Bonne Esperance*. The figure represents it white, with black stripes and spots.

The *Ermined Weesel* of Mr. Pennant, described and figured in the additions to the History of Quadrupeds, from a drawing communicated by General Davies, is, perhaps, another variety. It is white, with the neck and whole body spotted with ermine-like black spots disposed in rows:

The tail is annulated with black, and slightly tufted with black at the end: the ears short, rounded, and naked, and within of a fine pink-colour. It is said to be a native of Cochin-China.

TIGERINE WEESEL.

Viverra Tigrina. *V. cauda annulata, apice fusca, corpore cinereo fusco-maculato, stria a capite ad caudam producta nigra. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 91.

Yellowish-grey W. with brown variegations, annulated tail tipped with black, and a black stripe from head to tail.

Chat-Bizaam. *Vosmaer descr. Amst.* 1771.

Blotched Cat. *Pennant Quadr.* 1. *p.* 298.

This animal was described by Mr. Vosmaer, from a specimen shewn at Amsterdam. It is of the size of a Cat, and of mild manners. The body is of a cinereous brown-colour, with a black stripe from head to tail, and spotted on the sides with brown: the tail is annulated, and has a brown tip. Mr. Pennant, in the last edition of his History of Quadrupeds, refers this animal to the Genus Felis, and, indeed, from Mr. Vosmaer's figure, it should seem to have, at least, equal affinity to that genus as to the present. Mr. Schreber, however, makes it a Viverra.

MARTIN.

Viverra Foina.
Mustela Foina. *M. pedibus fissis*, corpore fulvo nigricante, gula alba. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 95.*
Blackish-fulvous W. with white throat.
Martes domestica. *Gesn. Quadr. 765. Aldr. dig. p. 332.*
Fouine. *Buff. 7. p. 161. pl. 18.*
Martin. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 41.*

The Martin is an animal of a highly elegant appearance. Its general length, from nose to tail, is about a foot and half, and the tail is ten inches long. The Martin is of a blackish tawny colour, with a white throat; and the belly is of a dusky-brown; the tail is bushy or full of hair, and of a darker colour than the other parts: the ears are moderately large and rounded, and the eyes lively. This animal is a native of most parts of Europe; inhabiting woods and fields, and preying on birds and other small animals. If taken young, it may be easily tamed, and even rendered domestic. It breeds in the hollows of trees, and brings forth from three to five young. The skin is used as a fur.

* The words *pedibus fissis*, or with divided feet, in opposition to *pedibus palmatis*, or webbed feet, are, of course, unnecessary in the present arrangement, in which the Otters form a separate genus. They are, therefore, purposely omitted in all the following specific characters belonging to this genus.

PINE MARTIN.

Viverra Martes.
Mustela Martes. *M. corpore fulvo nigricante, gula flava. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 95.*
Blackish-fulvous W. with yellow throat.
Martes. *Aldr. dig. 331.*
Martes Abietum. *Raj. Quadr. 200.*
Marte. *Buff. 7. p. 186. pl. 22.*
Pine Martin. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 41.*

This animal so extremely resembles the preceding as scarce to be distinguished from it by any other character than that of the yellow throat and breast: it is, however, generally said to have the head rather shorter than the common Martin. It frequents pine-woods in particular, and is accordingly found in such countries as most abound in that species of timber. In England it is much less frequent than the former, but in some parts of Germany, Sweden, &c. as well as in North America, it is a very common animal. It is said not to be found in Siberia. It never frequents houses, as the common Martin occasionally does; but confines itself altogether to the woods and fields. Its fur is considered as of a far superior quality to that of the former species, and the skins form a great article of commerce: those which are found about the region of Mount Caucasus are esteemed finer than any others: in these the throat is of an orange-colour. Some naturalists have supposed the Pine and Common Martin to be no other than varieties of the same species;

but the Count de Buffon considers them as perfectly distinct, and observes that no variation is ever known to take place in the colours, or the manners of the two animals; but that the one confines itself entirely to the deep recesses of the forests, while the common Martin approaches our habitations, and takes up his abode in old buildings, hay-lofts, holes of walls, &c. Both species have an agreeable kind of musky smell. Buffon affirms that the Pine Martin frequently usurps the nest of the Squirrel, as well as of the Buzzard, &c. in order to breed in, and sometimes dislodges the Woodpeckers from their holes for the same purpose. It is said to produce seven or eight young at a birth.

SABLE.

Viverra Zibellina.
Mustela Zibellina. *M. corpore obscure fulvo, fronte exalbida, gutture cinereo. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 96.
Blackish-fulvous W. with whitish front, and grey throat.
Mustela Sobella. *Gesn. Quadr. p.* 768.
Mustela Zibellina. *Aldr. dig. p.* 335.
Zibeline. *Buff.* 13. *p.* 309.
Sable Weesel. *Pennant Quadr.* 2. *p.* 43.

THE Sable is greatly allied to the Martin in its general appearance, but has a longer or sharper head, and more lengthened ears. Its general colour is a deep glossy brown; the hair being ash-

coloured at the roots and black at the tips: the chin is cinereous, and the edges of the ears yellowish. Its size is equal to that of the Martin; but, exclusive of other differences, a principal one consists in the tail, which is much shorter in proportion than in the Martin. The Sable is an inhabitant of the northern parts of Asia, and is an extremely important article in the fur trade. It principally lives in holes under ground, especially under the roots of trees, and sometimes, like the Martin, forms its nest in the hollows of trees. It is an active, lively animal, preying, in the manner of the Martin, on the smaller quadrupeds, birds, &c. Like the Martin it is also most lively during the night, and sleeps much by day. In autumn the Sable is said to eat cranberries, whortles, &c. It brings forth early in the spring, and has from three to five young at a time. The chase of the Sable, according to Mr. Pennant, was, during the more barbarous periods of the Russian empire, the principal task of the unhappy exiles who were sent into Siberia, and who, as well as the soldiers sent there, were obliged to furnish, within a given time, a certain quantity of furs; but, as Siberia is now become more populous, the Sables have in great measure quitted it, and have retired farther to the north and east, into the desert forests and mountains.

Sables are numbered among the most valuable of furs. From an abstract drawn up by the late Dr. Forster, from Muller's account of its commercial history, it appears that the price

varies from one to ten pounds sterling and above. The blackest and those which have the finest bloom or gloss are reputed the best. The very best are said to come from the environs of *Nertchisk* and *Yakutsk*, and in this latter district, the country about the river *Ud* sometimes affords Sables of which a single fur is sold at the rate of sixty or seventy rubles, or twelve or fourteen pounds sterling. Sometimes the furs of Sables are fraudulently dyed, and otherwise prepared, in order to give them a more intense colour, but these are very inferior to the fine natural ones, and are distinguishable by a kind of withered or dull appearance of the hair itself when accurately inspected.

The Sable occurs in North America, as well as in Asia; the American Sables are said to be chiefly of a chesnut-colour, and more glossy, but coarser than the Siberian Sables. It is necessary to observe, that the Sable varies in its cast of colour at different seasons and in different districts: instances have been known, though rarely, of its being found perfectly white.

FISHER.

Viverra Piscator. *V. dorso abdomine pedibus cauaaque nigris, lateribus fuscis, facie subcinerea, naso nigro.*

W. with the back, belly, feet and tail black, the sides brown, the face subcinereous with black nose.

Fisher Weesel. *Pennant Quadr.* 2. *p.* 50.

This seems described only by Mr. Pennant, who informs us that, notwithstanding its name, it is not an amphibious animal. It is a native of North America, where it is supposed, from the number of skins imported, to be by no means uncommon; not less than 580 having been brought in one season from New York and Pensylvania. It varies in colour, and is sometimes nearly black: its length from nose to tail is twenty-eight inches; of the tail, which is very full and bushy, seventeen: the ears are broad, round, and dusky, edged with white: the fore legs are shorter than the hind: there are five toes on the fore feet, and the same number, but sometimes only four, on the hind; the claws large, white, and crooked. The general colours are described in the specific character.

COMMON WEESEL.

FERRET.

POLECAT.

POLECAT.

Viverra Putorius.
Mustela Putorius *M. corpore flavo nigricante, ore auriculisque albis. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 96.*
Blackish-tawny W. with whitish muzzle and ears.
Putorius. *Gesn. Quadr. 767. Aldr. dig. 329. Jonst. Quadr. 154.*
Putois. *Buff. 7. p. 199. pl. 23.*
Fitchet. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 37.*
The Polecat or Fitchet.

The Polecat is one of the most remarkable European species of the Weesel tribe. Its colour is an extremely deep blackish-brown, with a tawny cast slightly intermixed: the ears are edged with white, and the space round the muzzle is also whitish. The general length of this animal is seventeen inches, exclusive of the tail, which measures about six inches. The Polecat is found in most parts of Europe, as well as in some of the Asiatic regions, as in Siberia, where it is said to be generally found with the rump of a whitish or yellowish tinge, surrounded with black.

The Polecat commonly forms itself a subterraneous retreat, sometimes beneath the roots of large trees, and sometimes under hay-ricks, and in barns. It preys indiscriminately on the smaller animals, and is very destructive to poultry: it is also, like the Ferret, a cruel enemy to rabbets, which it destroys by sucking their blood, instead of tearing them immediately in pieces. It steals into barns, pigeon-houses, &c. where it occasionally makes great havock; biting off the heads of fowls and pigeons, and then carrying them away

to its retreat; and sometimes it carries off the heads alone. During the summer, however, it principally frequents rabbet-warrens, or the hollow trunks of trees, &c. &c. and prowls about in quest of young birds, rats, field-mice, &c. According to the Count de Buffon, a single family of Polecats is sufficient to destroy a whole warren of rabbets; and he observes, that this would be a simple method of diminishing the number of rabbets where they are too abundant. In Spain the Ferret is said to have been formerly introduced for a similar purpose. The Polecat also preys occasionally on fish: of which a curious instance is recorded in Mr. Bewick's History of Quadrupeds. During a severe storm, one of these animals was tracked in the snow from the side of a rivulet to its hole, at some distance from it: as it was observed to have made frequent trips, and as other marks were seen in the snow, which could not easily be accounted for, it was thought a matter worthy of more diligent enquiry; its hole was accordingly examined; the animal taken; and eleven fine eels were discovered to be the fruits of its nocturnal excursions; the unusual marks in the snow having been made by the motion of the eels while dragged along in the animal's mouth. That the Polecat, however, sometimes feeds in this manner, is, in reality, no new observation; since Aldrovandus assures us that it will occasionally take up its residence in the hollow banks of rivulets, in order to lie in wait for, and prey upon, fish. The Polecat is also delighted with milk,

and will visit the dairy in order to indulge in this article: it has been known to attack bee-hives in the winter season, and to feed on the honey. The spring is the season in which it breeds; the female producing three or four at a birth, which she is said to suckle but a short time, accustoming them early to suck the blood of the animals which she brings to them, as well as eggs, &c.

The Polecat has been known to breed with the Ferret, and it is said to be a practice with warreners, who keep these animals, to procure a mixed breed from time to time, which are of a colour between the Ferret and the Polecat, or of a dingy yellowish-brown.

The Polecat is a strong and active creature, and will spring with great vigour and celerity when preparing to attack its prey, or to escape from pursuit; at which time it arches its back considerably, in order to assist its effort. It is of a smell proverbially fetid, being furnished, like several others of the Weesel tribe, with certain receptacles which secrete a thickish fluid of a peculiarly strong and offensive odour. The fur, however, is beautiful, and the skin, when properly dressed, is numbered among the commercial furs, and used for tippets and other articles of dress. It is added by Aldrovandus, that the furriers endeavour to obtain skins taken from such animals as have been killed during the winter, as being far less fetid than those killed in the spring and summer.

FERRET.

Viverra Furo. *V. flava, oculis rubicundis.*
Yellow W. with red eyes.
Mustela Furo. *M. oculis rubicundis. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 97.
Furo. *Gesn. Quadr.* 762.
Mustela Sylvestris. *Aldr. dig.* 327.
Furet, & Furet-putois. *Buff.* 7. *p.* 209. *pl.* 25, 26.
Ferret. *Pennant Quadr.* 2. *p.* 40.

Of similar manners to the Polecat is the Ferret, the natural history of which has been so well detailed by the Count de Buffon, that it is scarce possible to add any thing material to that elegant author's description. The Ferret in general form resembles the Polecat, but is a smaller animal; its usual length being about fourteen inches, exclusive of the tail, which is about five. Linnæus, in the twelfth edition of the Systema Naturæ, seems to entertain a doubt whether it may be truly distinct from the Polecat: it is, however, a native of Africa, and not of Europe, and supports with difficulty the cold of an European winter; whereas the Polecat is found not only in the temperate, but also in the colder parts of the European regions; to which may be added, that, exclusive of its smaller size, it is of a more slender shape, and the snout is sharper in proportion than in the former animal. The Ferret is used for rabbet-hunting in preference to the Polecat, because it is more easily tamed; but it is necessary to keep it in a warm box, with wool or some other substance in which it may imbed itself. It sleeps

almost continually, and when awake, immediately begins to search about for food: it is usually fed with bread and milk; but its favourite food is the blood of the smaller animals. It is by nature an enemy to the Rabbet; and it is affirmed by Buffon, that whenever a dead Rabbet is presented for the first time to a young Ferret, he flies upon it in an instant, and bites it with great fury; but if it be alive, he seizes it by the throat and sucks its blood. When let into the burrows of Rabbets, the Ferret is always muzzled, that it may not kill the Rabbets in their holes, but only drive them out in order to be caught in the nets. If the Ferret be put in without a muzzle, or happens to disengage himself from it, he is often lost; for after sucking the blood of the Rabbet, he falls asleep, and cannot be regained, except sometimes by smoking the hole, in order to oblige him to come out; but as this is a practice which does not always succeed, it continues to lead a rapacious and solitary life in the warren, as long as the summer continues, and perishes by the cold of the winter.

We are told by Strabo that the Ferret was brought into Spain from Africa, and it is supposed that this was done in order to free that country from the vast number of Rabbets with which it was overrun; and from Spain it was gradually introduced into other European countries. The Ferret is an animal of irascible nature, and, when irritated, his odour, which is not at all times disagreeable, becomes far more so than usual. The

general colour of the Ferret is a very pale yellowish-brown, or cream-colour; and the eyes are of a bright and lively red.

COMMON WEESEL.

Viverra Vulgaris.

Mustella Vulgaris. *M. corpore ex fusco-rufo, subtus albo, cauda concolore. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 99.*

Pale reddish-brown W. white beneath; with tail similar in colour to the body.

Mustela vulgaris. *Aldr. dig. p. 307.*

Mustela. *Gesn. Quadr. 752.*

Belette. *Buff. 7. p. 225. pl. 29. f. 1.*

β. Mustela Nivalis. *M. corpore albo, caudæ apice, vix pilis ullis nigris.*

Common Weesel. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 33.*

THE Weesel is one of the smallest species in this numerous tribe of quadrupeds. Its general length is about seven inches, exclusive of the tail, which measures near two inches and a half. Its colour is a pale reddish or yellowish-brown, and beneath it is entirely white; but below the corners of the mouth, on each side, is a brown spot: the ears are small and rounded, and the eyes are black. This little animal is possessed of a considerable degree of elegance in its aspect, and its motions are light and easy; but it has the same unpleasant smell with the Stoat, and some other species. It is an inhabitant of the cavities under the roots of trees, as well as of banks near rivulets, &c. from which it occasionally sallies out in

quest of birds, field-mice, &c. It even attacks young Rabbets and other animals of far superior size to itself; but its chief prey, at least in this country, seems to be the field-mouse, of which it destroys great multitudes. From the extreme flexibility of its body, and its wonderful activity, it readily ascends the sides of walls, and by this means pursues its prey into the most distant retirements; and is a frequent inhabitant of barns and granaries. The Weesel produces four or five young at a time; preparing for them a bed of moss, grass, &c. An instance is given by the Count de Buffon of a Weesel's nest being found in the carcase of a Wolf, which had been hung up near a wood: the nest was made in the cavity of the thorax. The Count de Buffon, in his first description of the Weesel, affirmed that it was a perfectly untameable animal; but he afterwards received very authentic accounts of Weesels which had been so completely tamed as to exhibit every mark of attachment to their benefactors, and to be as familiar as a cat or lap-dog. An account of this kind is given by one of his correspondents in the 7th supplemental volume of his Natural History, which amply confirms the truth of this; and, among other curious particulars, it is observed, that, when asleep, the muscles of this little animal are in a state of extreme flaccidity, so that it may be taken up by the head, and swung backwards and forwards, in the manner of a pendulum, several times before it wakes. Mademoiselle de Laistre, in a letter on this subject

gives a very pleasing account of the education and manners of a Weesel, which she took under her protection. She affirms, that, far from having any predilection for meat in a state of putrifaction, it, on the contrary, always delighted most in that which was perfectly fresh. For the two or three first days it was fed with warm milk; and afterwards with veal, beef, or mutton. It frequently eat from her hand, and seemed to be more delighted with this manner of feeding than any other. It was very fond of milk. "If I pour (says M. de Laistre) some milk into my hand, it will drink a good deal, but if I have not this complaisance, it will scarce drink a drop. When it is satisfied it generally goes to sleep: my chamber is the place of its residence, and I have found a method of dispelling its strong smell by perfumes: by day it sleeps in a quilt, into which it gets by an unsown place on the edge, which it has discovered. By night it is kept in a wired box or cage, which it always enters with reluctance, and leaves with pleasure. If it be set at liberty before my time of rising, after a thousand little playful tricks, it gets into bed, and goes to sleep in my hand or on my bosom. If I am up first, it spends a full half hour in caressing me, playing with my fingers like a little dog, jumping on my head, on my neck, running round my arms and body, with a lightness and elegance which I never beheld in any other animal. If I present my hands, at the distance of three feet, it jumps into them without ever missing. It shews a great

deal of finesse and cunning in order to compass its ends, and seems to disobey certain prohibitions merely through frolic. During all its actions it seems solicitous to divert and to be noticed; looking, at every jump, and at every turn, in order to see whether you observe it or no: and if no notice be taken of its gambols, it ceases them immediately, and betakes itself to sleep; and even when most asleep, if you wake it, it instantly resumes its gaiety, and frolics about in as sprightly a manner as before. It never shews any ill-humour, unless when confined, or teized too much, in which case it expresses its displeasure by a sort of murmur, very different from that which it utters when pleased. In the midst of twenty people this little animal distinguishes my voice, seeks me out, and springs over every body to come at me. His play with me is the most lively and caressing; with his two little paws he pats me on the chin with an air and a manner expressive of delight: this, and a thousand other preferences, shew that his attachment to me is real. When he sees me dressed for going out, he will not leave me, and it is not without some trouble that I can disengage myself from him; he then hides himself behind a cabinet near the door, and jumps upon me, as I pass, with so much celerity that I frequently can scarce see him.

"He seems to resemble a squirrel in vivacity, agility, voice, and manner of murmuring. During the summer, he squeaks and runs about all night long; but, since the commencement of the

cold weather, I have not observed this. Sometimes, when the sun shines, while he is playing on the bed, he turns and tumbles about and murmurs for a while.

"From his delight in drinking milk out of my hand, into which I pour a very little at a time, and his custom of sipping the little drops and edges of the fluid, it should seem that he drinks dew in the same manner. He very seldom drinks water, and that only with great caution, and in defect of milk; and then seems only to refresh his tongue once or twice: he even seems to be afraid of water. During the hot weather it rained a good deal. I presented to him some rain-water in a dish, and endeavoured to make him go into it, but could not succeed. I then wetted a piece of linnen cloth in it, and put it near him, when he rolled upon it with extreme delight.

"One singularity in this charming animal is his curiosity; it being impossible to open a drawer or a box, or even to look at a paper, but the little creature will examine it also. If he gets into any place where I am afraid of permitting him to stay, I take a paper or a book, and look attentively at it; when he immediately runs upon my hand and surveys with an air of curiosity whatever I happen to hold. I must farther observe, that he plays with a young Cat and Dog, both of some size, getting about their necks, backs, and paws, without their doing him the least injury."

But we have also the testimony of Aldrovandus in favour of the Weesel's being sometimes completely tamed; so that Buffon might have found an exception to his general character of the animal, even if he had not received these modern attestations. Aldrovandus even expressly asserts, that Weesels are easily tamed, and that, when tame, they are remarkably playful; adding at the same time, from Cardan, that their teeth should be rubbed with garlick, after which they will not presume to bite.

" Cæterum animadvertendum est inter animalia mustelas facile cicurari, & præcipue quando ad mentem Cardani, illarum dentes allio perfricantur, quia imposterum quempiam mordicus apprehendere non audent, et cicuratæ collusionibus quotidie indulgent."

Aldrovandus also quotes (from Strozza) part of an elegy on the death of a tame Weesel.

Nil poterat puero te gratius esse, nec illi
Morte tua quicquam tristius esse potest.
Tu digitos molli tentabas improba morsu,
Porrecto ludens semisupina pede,
Et mollem e labiis noras sorbere salivam,
Et quiddam exiguo murmure dulce queri.

Loving and lov'd, thy master's grief!
Thou could'st th' uncounted hours beguile,
And nibbling at his finger soft
Watch anxious for th' approving smile:
Or, stretching forth the playful foot,
Around in wanton gambols rove,
Or gently sip the rosy lip,
And in light murmurs speak thy love.

Lastly, Aldrovandus affirms that the Weesel sometimes carries her young in her mouth from place to place several times in a day, when she suspects that they will be stolen from her.

STOAT.

Viverra Erminea.
Mustela Erminea. *M. caudæ apice atro. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 98.
W. with the tip of the tail black.
Mustela hieme alba, æstate supra rutila, infra alba, caudæ apice nigro. *Briss. Quadr. p.* 176.
Roselet. *Buff. 7. p.* 240. *pl.* 31. *f.* 1.
L'Hermine. *Buff. 7. p.* 240. *pl.* 29. *f.* 2.
Stoat and Ermine. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p.* 35.

This animal much resembles the Weesel in its general appearance, as well as in colour, but is considerably larger; the body, exclusive of the tail, measuring ten inches, and the tail five and a half: the tip of the tail is also constantly black, whatever may be the gradation or cast of colour on the body; for the Stoat, in the northern regions, becomes milk-white during the winter, in which state it is commonly called the *Ermine*. It is sometimes found of this colour in our own country, and instances are not very uncommon in which it appears parti-coloured, or white in some parts, and brown in others, the change of colour having not been completed. Its smell is strong and unpleasant. The Stoat is similar in

MARTEN
STOAT

its manners to the Weesel; living in hollows under the roots of trees, in banks near rivulets, &c. and preying on all manner of smaller animals, as well as on Rabbets, &c. It does not, however, like the Weesel, visit houses, but confines itself to the fields. It is an inhabitant both of the northern parts of Europe and of Asia. It occurs in Kamtschatka and the Kurile isles. It is also said to be found in several parts of North America.

In Norway and in Siberia the skins are a great article of commerce; most of the Ermines or white Stoat skins being brought from thence. In Siberia the Stoat is said to be found in the birch forests, but not in the pine forests; and the skins are sold on the spot, according to Mr. Pennant, at from two to three pounds sterling per hundred. The animals are either taken in traps or shot with blunt arrows.

The figure of the Ermine here engraved is from an elegant drawing in the British Museum, by the celebrated Edwards.

GALERA.

Viverra Galera.
Mustela Galera. *M. Tota fusca. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 95.*
W. entirely brown.
Vansire. *Buff. 13. p. 167. pl. 21.*
Tayra ou Galera. *Buff. 15. p. 155.*
Madagascar Weesel. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 51.*
Guinea Weesel. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 53.*

The length of this species is about fourteen inches from nose to tail, and of the tail, which tapers to the end, about ten: the ears nearly naked, round, and lying flat to the head: the tongue rough: the shape of the body like that of a rat: the hair is rough. It is an inhabitant of Madagascar and of Guinea.

GUIANA WEESEL.

Vivérra Barbara.
Mustela Barbara. *M. atra, collo subtus macula alba triloba. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 94.*
Black W. with a trilobate white spot beneath the throat.
Guiana Weesel. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 53.*

It is of the size of a Martin, and is black, with a small ash-coloured space between the eyes, and a trilobated white spot beneath the throat. It is a native of Brasil and Guiana, and is said to have a musky smell.

WHITE-CHEEKED WEESEL.

Viverra Quadricolor. *V. cinereo flavescens, gula flava, capite, cruribus, caudaque nigris, genis mentoque albis.*
Yellow-cinereous W. with black head, legs, and tail, bright-yellow throat, and white cheeks and chin.
White-cheeked Weesel. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 52.*

THIS animal measured from nose to tail eighteen inches, and the tail the same: the ears were rounded; the nose broad and blunt: the head flat; the irides dusky; the face, crown, legs, rump, and tail, black: the back and belly pale yellow intimately mixed with cinereous; the throat of a rich yellow, and the chin and cheeks white.

It was described by Mr. Pennant from a living specimen in 1772. Its native place was unknown.

PEKAN.

Viverra Canadensis.
Mustela Canadensis. *M. corpore fulvo nigricante, pectore macula alba. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 95.*
Blackish-fulvous W. with white pectoral spot.
Le Pekan. *Buff. 13 p. 304. pl. 42. Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 51.*

THIS species has the shape of a Martin, and is more than a foot and half in length from nose to tail; the tail being near one foot long. Its general colour is black-fulvous, with a white patch between the fore legs, and on the sides of the body is a tinge of grey: the ears are a little pointed:

the fur is very soft and glossy: the toes covered with thick hair both above and below. Native of North America. This species, as figured by Schreber, has extremely the appearance of one of the Otter tribe.

SARMATIAN WEESEL.

Viverra Sarmatica.

Mustela Sarmatica. *M. corpore supra ex luteo fuscoque varia. Lin. Syst. Gmel. p.* 97.

W. variegated on the upper parts with brown and yellow.

M. peregusina, pedibus fissis, capite et corpore subtus aterrimis, corpore supra brunneo luteoque vario, ore fascia frontali auriculisque albis. *Guldenstedt nov. comm. petrop.* 14. *p.* 441,—445. *t.* 10.

Mustela præcincta et Perewiaska. *Rzaczynski hist. nat. Pol. p.* 328 *and* 222.

Vormela (germanice Wormlein). *Gesn. Quadr. p.* 768.

THE Sarmatian Weesel measures about fourteen inches to the tail, and the tail six inches. The head, feet, and under sides of the body, are black, the upper parts brown, variegated with irregular spots or patches of tawny yellow: the mouth is surrounded with white; the face is crossed by a white band beyond the eyes, passing beneath the ears on each side down to the throat: another white band crosses the back part of the head, and runs down on each side over the shoulders; and the upper part of the neck is varied with yellow: the tail is black, but intermixed with white and fulvous hairs. This species inha-

bits Poland and the southern provinces of Russia. It is said to be voracious, fierce, and untameable: residing in holes, &c. and preying on the smaller quadrupeds, &c.

SIBERIAN WEESEL.

Viverra Sibirica.

Mustela Sibirica. *M. fulva, palmis plantisque hirsutissimis. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 98.

Fulvous W. with extremely hairy feet.

This is about the size of the Sarmatian Weesel. The face is blackish, but white about the nostrils, and spotted towards the eyes: the rest of the animal is of a deep fulvous or almost a fox-colour: the throat sometimes spotted with white: the tail very full of hair, and of a deeper colour than the rest of the body. The feet are very thickly furred: the body more slender than that of the Polecat, and resembling that of the Stoat in shape.

TOUAN.

Viverra Touan. *V. ferruginea, subtus alba, cauda versus apicem nuda.*
Ferruginous W. white beneath, with the tail naked towards the tip.
Le Touan. *Buff. suppl. 7. p. 252. pl. 61.*

This is a very small species, less than the common Weesel, and is a native of Cayenne, living in hollow trees, and feeding on worms and insects. The upper part of the snout, the head, and the whole body as far as the tail, is blackish; the sides of the body and limbs bright ferruginous; and the lower parts, from throat to tail, white: the tail towards the tip is bare.

QUIQUI.

Viverra Quiqui.
Mustela Quiqui. *M. corpore fusco, rostro cuneiformi. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 99.*
Brown W. with cuneiform snout.
Quiqui. *Molina hist. nat. Chili. 4. p. 258.*

This species inhabits Chili, living under ground and feeding on mice, &c. It is principally distinguished by its cuneiform or wedge-shaped snout: the ears are short and round, with a white spot in the middle: the legs and tail short: the feet like those of a Lizard: the length of the animal from nose to tail thirteen inches.

CUJA.

Viverra Cuja. *V. nigra, rostro resimo.*
Black W. with turned-up snout.
Cuja. *Molina Chili.* 272.

THIS animal is said by Molina to have a great resemblance, in shape, manners, and teeth, to a Ferret; but has black hair and eyes, and a turned-up snout: the tail is as long as the body, and very full of hair. It is a native of Chili, and preys on mice. It breeds twice a year, and has three or four young at a time.

SPOTTED WEESEL.

Viverra Maculata. *V. fusca, albo maculata.*
Dusky W. spotted with white.
Spotted Martin. *Phillips's voy. p.* 276. *pl.* 46.

THIS, which is described in Governor Phillips's voyage to Botany Bay, is said to be of the size of a large Polecat, measuring eighteen inches from nose to tail, and the tail nearly as much: the visage is of a pointed shape, and the form of the whole animal such as not ill to resemble that of the Fossane. The colour is said to be black, marked all over, the tail not excepted, with irregular blotches of white: the tail is represented as thin, and gradually tapering to the end: the whiskers very long, and the general appearance of the animal such as to resemble the *Viverrine*

Opossum in most particulars, except in the appearance of the tail.

The following obscure and somewhat uncertain species of this numerous genus, seem scarce sufficiently known to justify a decided specific character for each. I shall, therefore, merely mention them in as few words as possible.

GREY-HEADED WEESEL.

La Grande Marte de Guiane. *Buff. suppl. 7. p. 250. pl. 60.*

This is black, with the head and sides of the neck greyish; and the throat and under side of the neck white. It measures above two feet from nose to tail, which measures eighteen inches. It is a native of Guiana.

SOUTH AMERICAN WEESEL.

La Fouine de la Guiane. *Buff. suppl. 3. p. 161. pl. 23.*

This measures from nose to tail twenty-one inches and a half, and has a general resemblance to a Polecat, but the tail is rather shorter in proportion: the nose is long and sharp, and with the cheeks, throat, and sides of the neck, black: the forehead and sides of the head, to the ears, white: the ears short, round, and edged with white.

From each ear a narrow white stripe extends along the sides of the neck: the general colour of the animal is dark grey; the legs and feet black, with a tinge of red; the tail chesnut.

WOOLLY WEESEL.

La petite Fouine de la Guiane. *Buff. suppl. 3. p. 162. pl. 24.*

THIS is near sixteen inches long from nose to tail, and the tail near nine inches: the nose is long and slender, and the upper jaw longer than the lower: the tail is taper, and, from the figure, seems to be bare at the point: colour not mentioned: the hair is soft and woolly. It is a native of Guiana.

MUSKY WEESEL.

Musky Weesel. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p.*

THIS has the upper part of the body cinereous, dashed with yellow, and marked with some obscure dusky lines: the nose, part of the cheeks, the legs, and end of the tail, black: on the middle of the cheeks is a white spot. It is a native of Bengal, and is said to have a strong musky scent: size not mentioned: described by Mr. Pennant from a drawing.

SLENDER-TOED WELSEL.

This is a small species, measuring from nose to tail seven inches, and the tail is of the same length: the ears short and rounded: the fur grizzled minutely with black and rufous: the toes five in number, and very long and slender; each lobated at the bottom of the first joint: claws small: the upper part of the toes and part of the legs covered with short velvet-like down: the tail is bushy, and covered with long rat-coloured hair. This species is described by Mr. Pennant from a drawing. It is said to be a native of Cochin-China.

LUTRA. OTTER.

Generic Character.

Dentes ut in genere antecedente.	*Teeth* as in the preceding genus.
Pedes palmati.	*Feet* webbed.

THE Otters or *Lutræ* agree with the animals of the last genus, and particularly with those of the division entitled *Mustelæ*, in their general character, but are furnished with webbed feet.

COMMON OTTER.

Lutra Vulgaris. *L. fusca plantis nudis, cauda corpore dimidio breviore.*
Brown O. with naked feet, and tail half the length of the body.
Mustela Lutra. *M. plantis palmatis nudis, cauda corpore dimidio breviore. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 66.*
Lutra. *Gesn. Quadr. p. 775. Aldr. dig. p. 292.*
Loutre. *Buff. 7. p. 134. pl. 11.*
Greater Otter. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 77.*

THE common Otter is found in almost every part of Europe, as well as in the colder regions of Asia; inhabiting the banks of rivers, and feeding

principally on fish. It occurs also in the northern parts of America, and particularly in Canada, where it appears to arrive at a larger size than in Europe. In the river Euphrates, on the contrary, it is said to be found no larger than a common Cat; but it is probable, that this is in reality a different species, viz. the L. Lutreola, or smaller Otter, hereafter to be described. The usual length of the Otter is near two feet from nose to tail, and of the tail about sixteen inches. Its colour is a deep brown, with a small light-coloured patch on each side the nose, and another under the chin: the throat and breast are ash-coloured: the head is flat and broad: the mouth small; the teeth strong; the lips very thick and muscular; the ears short and rounded; and the eyes small, and situated near the nose: the neck is very thick; the legs short and thick, loosely joined to the body, and so placed as to be capable of being brought on a line with the body, and of performing the office of fins; the toes, which are five in number on all the feet, are connected by broad and strong webs, and the whole foot is naked or without hair. "The Otter (says Mr. Pennant) shews great sagacity in forming its habitation: it burrows under ground in the banks of some river or lake; and always makes the entrance of its hole under water; working upwards to the surface of the earth, and, before it reaches the top, makes several *holts* or lodges, that in case of high floods it may have a retreat; for no animal affects lying drier; and then makes a minute orifice for the

admission of air: it is farther observed, that this animal, the more effectually to conceal its retreat, contrives to make even this little air-hole in the midst of some thick bush." Though the principal food of the Otter consists of fish, yet it is said that in hard weather, when this its natural prey fails, it will attack the smaller quadrupeds, as well as poultry, &c. The Otter is naturally a very fierce animal, and when hunted with dogs, as is sometimes the practice, will inflict very severe wounds on its antagonists. The female produces four or five young at a birth: this commonly happens early in the spring. The young Otters, if taken at a very early age, may be successfully tamed, and taught by degrees to hunt for fish, and bring them to their master. This taming of Otters and employing them in fishing is mentioned by Aldrovandus (from Albertus Magnus) as a circumstance familiarly known, and more especially, according to Albertus, in Sweden, where he tells us that, in the houses of the great, these animals were kept for that purpose, and would go out, at a signal from the cook, catch fish, and bring it into the kitchen in order to be dressed for dinner!!!

The Count de Buffon, in his description of the Otter, given in the 7th volume of his Natural History, seems inclined to doubt the reality of the Otter's having ever been properly tamed, so as to be rendered serviceable in fishing; but later experience has proved this to be perfectly practicable. An Otter thus tamed has followed its

master like a dog, and been found extremely useful. Instances of this kind are described in Mr. Bewick's work on Quadrupeds. A person near Inverness in Scotland had, according to this writer, a tame Otter, which would follow him wherever he chose, and, if called by its name, would immediately obey. When apprehensive of danger from dogs, it would seek protection from its master, and endeavour to fly into his arms for security. It was frequently employed in catching fish, and would sometimes take eight or ten salmon in a day: these it always made an attempt to break behind the small back fin, if not prevented: as soon as one was taken away, it immediately dived for another, and, when tired, refused to fish any longer; and, after having been rewarded with a part of the spoil, would compose itself to sleep, and in this state was carried home. It would fish in the sea as well as in fresh water. Another person, according to Mr. Bewick, who kept a tame Otter, suffered it to follow him with the dogs, and it was found a very useful assistant in fishing, by going into the water, and driving the trouts, &c. into the nets. It was farther remarkable, that the dogs, though accustomed to hunt Otters, were so far from giving it the smallest molestation, that they would not even hunt an Otter while in its company. This method of fishing with a tame Otter is also mentioned by Vaniere, in his truly Virgilian poem, the Prædium Rusticum.

" Si nidum tenerosque feræ deprendere pullos
Contigit; absenti sobolem furabere matri;
Et dum mollis adhuc ætas facilisque doceri,
Piscandi cicurem Lutram formabis ad artes:
Namque ubi transverso steterint suspensa fluento
Lina; cavernosos rimabitur illa recessus,
Ejectos specubus pisces in retia trudens;
Ut canis excitos agit in venabula cervos,
Et leporum presso sequitur vestigia rostro."

" Should chance, within their dark recess, betray
The tender young, bear quick the prize away.
Tam'd by thy care, the useful brood shall join
The wat'ry chace, and add their toils to thine;
From each close lurking-hole shall force away
And drive within thy nets the silver prey:
As the taught hound the timid stag subdues,
Or o'er the dewy plain the panting hare pursues."

Lastly, The Count de Buffon himself, in his sixth supplemental volume, retracts his scepticism on this subject, and has published a letter from the Marquis de Courtivron relative to a tame Otter kept in an abbey at Autun, in the year 1775, &c. This Otter was a female, and had been taken extremely young, and reared with milk till it was two months old, when it was fed with soup, fruits, pulse, meat, fish, &c. which latter, however, it would not eat unless perfectly fresh. It was as tame as a dog, and would come whenever it was called by its name. It would also play with a dog and cat with which it had been early acquainted, but shewed great animosity against other dogs and cats which happened to approach it. This Otter chiefly inhabited a

room, and would lie by night on a bed, and, during the day-time, on a heap of straw provided for it: it would occasionally plunge its head and fore feet into a vessel of water, which always stood near it; and, after shaking itself, would go out into the court yard for exercise, &c. and would often sleep in the sunshine. It seemed in a manner to have lost the natural habits of its kind; since, being carried one day to a pool of water, it seemed afraid, and would not go into it, but only wetted its head and feet, as in its chamber; and when thrown in, to the distance of some feet, it instantly made to the shore, as if in a kind of alarm, and followed readily to the Abbey.

When the Otter, in its natural or uneducated state, has caught a fish, it immediately draws it ashore, and devours the head and upper parts, leaving the remainder; and when in a state of captivity, will eat no fish but what is perfectly fresh, but will prefer bread, milk, &c. The Otter, says Buffon, is as noxious in a fish-pond as the Polecat in a hen-roost; since he frequently kills many more fish than he can eat, and then carries off one in his teeth. The Otter will sometimes devour vegetables of different kinds, and will gnaw the bark and twigs of young trees. The flesh of the Otter is rank and fishy. The Romish church permits the use of it on maigre-days, and Mr. Pennant declares, that, in the kitchen of the Carthusian convent, near Dijon, he saw one preparing for the dinner of the reli-

ous of that rigid order, who are prohibited, during their whole lives, the eating of flesh.

SMALLER OTTER.

Lutra Lutreola. *L. fulvo-nigricans, plantis hirsutis, digitis æqualibus, ore albo.*

Blackish-tawny **O.** with hairy feet, toes equal in length, and white muzzle.

Mustela Lutreola. *M. plantis palmatis hirsutis, digitis æqualibus, ore albo. Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 66.*

Viverra Lutreola. *Pall. spicil. zool. 14. p. 46. t. 3. f. 1.*

Lesser Otter. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 80.*

This species very much resembles the common Otter, but is much smaller: the body is of a dusky-colour, but with a considerable cast of tawny; the chin and throat white; the ears roundish; the feet broad, webbed, and covered with hair, instead of being naked, as in the former animal. In size it falls far short of the common Otter, measuring about a foot in length. In North America this species is known by the name of Minx, and is said sometimes to leave the water, and prey on poultry, &c. in the manner of a Polecat, biting off the heads and sucking the blood. It is said also to have a fetid smell. In Europe the smaller Otter is chiefly found in Poland and Lithuania, living on fish, frogs, &c. Its fur is very valuable, and next in beauty to that of the Sable.

SEA OTTER.

Lutra Marina. *L. nigra, plantis pilosis, cauda corpore quadruplo breviore.*

Black O. with hairy feet, and tail four times shorter than the body.

Mustela Lutris. *M. plantis palmatis pilosis, cauda corpore quadruplo breviore. Lin. Syst. Nat. p.* 66.

Lutra marina. *Steller nov. comm. Petrop.* 2. *p.* 367. *t.* 26.

Sea Otter. *Pennant Quadr.* 2. *p.* 83.

This is the largest of the Otters, measuring about three feet from the nose to the tail, and the tail thirteen inches. The colour of this species is a deep, glossy, brownish-black; the fur being extremely soft and very fine: on the forehead is generally a cast of greyish or silver-colour: the ears are erect, sharpish, and small: the whiskers long and white: the fore legs thick and furnished with four toes, covered with hair, and webbed: the hind feet resemble those of a Seal; the toes being connected by a strong granulated membrane, with a skin skirting the outward toe, as in some of the water-fowl: the tail is short, broad, depressed, and pointed at the end. The Sea Otter has been found of the weight of seventy or eighty pounds. It is sometimes seen of a silvery or hoary tinge. According to Mr. Pennant, it is one of the most local animals we are acquainted with, being entirely confined between lat. 44. and 60. north; and between east long. from London, 126. to 150.; inhabiting, in great abundance, Bering's islands, Kamtschatka, the

SEA OTTER.

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Aleutian and Fox islands, between Asia and America. They land also in the Kuril islands, but are never seen in the channel between the north-east of Siberia and America. It is supposed that they bring but one at a time. They are most extremely harmless animals, and are singularly affectionate to their young. They bring forth on land, and often carry the young one between their teeth; fondle them, and frequently fling them up and catch them again in their paws; and before they can swim, the parents take them in their fore feet, and swim about on their backs. The young continues with its parent till it takes a mate.

This animal is killed for its skin, which is one of the most valuable of furs, being sold at the rate of from 14 to 25 pounds sterling each. They are said to be chiefly sold to the Chinese.

The Sea Otter is sometimes taken with nets, but is more frequently destroyed with clubs and spears.

In the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1796, we meet with a description of the Sea Otter by Mr. A. Menzies, accompanied by some observations by Mr. Home. From the description there given it appears that the hind feet were completely covered with hair both above and below, except a small bare spot beneath each toe, so that in this particular the animal either varies, or the hair at some particular seasons may fall away from the webs of the feet, so as to leave the skin bare, as mentioned in Mr. Pennant's description:

the hind feet in the specimen now mentioned measured eight inches across: the tongue was four inches long, and rounded at the end, with a slight fissure, giving the tip a bifid appearance. In this respect, as well as in the structure of the hind feet, the Sea Otter makes an evident approach to the Seal.

BRASILIAN OTTER.

Lutra Brasiliana. *L. atra, gutture flavo.*
Black Otter with yellow throat.
Lutra nigricans, cauda depressa et plana. *Barr. Fr. equin. p. 155.*
Brasilian Otter. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 79.*

This species is said to be of the size of a middling dog, and entirely of a black colour, except the head, which is brown, and the throat, which is yellow: the eyes are small and black; the whiskers large; the ears round; the feet like those of a Monkey, and with five toes, of which the interior is the shortest; the claws sharp; the tail flat and naked, and reaching no farther than the feet. It is a native of Brasil and Guiana, and about the borders of the Oronoko, and is said to live chiefly on fish and crabs. It is reckoned a good food, and without any fishy taste. In the Gmelinian edition of the Systema Naturæ this species is considered as a variety of the Sea Otter.

SARICOVIENNE.

Lutra Saricovienna. *L. grisea albo maculata.*
Grey O. spotted with black.
La petite Loutre d'eau douce de Cayenne. *Buff. suppl. 3. p. 159. pl. 22.*
Saricovienne. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 82.*

This is said to be of the size of a Cat, with a fur as fine as velvet, grey, patched with black: the flesh is said to be very delicate. It is a native of South America, inhabiting rivers.

SLENDER OTTER.

Lutra gracilis. *L. fusca, corpore longissimo.*
Brown O. with extremely slender body.
Slender Otter. *Pennant Quadr. 2. p. 85.*

The length of this species, from the nose to the tip of the tail, is four feet four inches; of the tail about thirteen inches; the diameter of the body, so far as could be guessed from the dried skin, scarcely more than four inches and a half: the fore legs about three inches and a half long: the hind legs four inches: the head and eyes small; the ears extremely small, so as to be scarce visible: the hind feet more strongly webbed than the fore feet: the colour of the whole animal a rich and very deep chesnut or dark brown, rather paler beneath: the cheeks and throat paler

than the other parts. This species inhabits Staten-Land.

VISON.

Lutra Vison. *L. corpore saturate castaneo unicolore.*

Mustela Vison. *M. pedibus palmatis, corpore saturate castaneo unicolore. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 94.
Vison. *Buff.* 13. *p.* 304. *pl.* 43.
Minx. *Lawson Car. p.* 121.?

This animal appears to approach so extremely near to the L. Lutreola, or Smaller Otter, before described, as scarce to differ in any other circumstance but that of wanting the white throat, instead of which it is entirely of a fine brown, with a cast of chesnut: the fur is very fine and glossy. It is probable also that this is the real *Minx* of the Americans, and that what has been said by Mr. Pennant relative to the Minx, under the article of the Lesser Otter, should, in reality, be applied to this variety.

CHINCHIMEN.

Lutra Felina. *L. forma felina.*
O. with the shape and appearance of a Cat.
Chinchimen. *Molin. Chil.* 265. *Pennant Quadr.* 2. *p.* 82.

In its general appearance this animal is said extremely to resemble a Cat, having similar head,

whiskers, ears, eyes, shape, and length of tail: the feet have five webbed toes, with strong crooked claws: the length from nose to tail is twenty inches. It is said by Molina to inhabit the sea of Chili. It swims about in pairs, and loves to bask in the sun on the tops of rocks; and, when taken, has all the fierceness of a wild Cat.

URSUS. BEAR.

Generic Character.

Dentes Primores superiores sex, intus excavati, alterni. Inferiores sex; laterales duo longiores, lobati; secundarii basi interiores.

Laniarii solitarii.

Molares quinque seu sex, primo laniariis approximato.

Lingua lævis.

Nasus prominens.

Membrana nictitans.

Front-teeth six both above and below: the two lateral ones of the lower jaw longer than the rest and lobed; with smaller or secondary teeth at their internal bases.

Canine-teeth solitary.

Grinders five or six on each side; the first approximated to the canine-teeth.

Tongue smooth.

Snout prominent.

Eyes furnished with a *nictitating membrane.*

Ursus Arctos. *Ursus fusco nigricans, cauda abrupta. Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p.* 190.
Blackish-brown Bear with abrupt tail.
Ursus. *Gesn. Quadr.* 14. *Aldr. dig.* 117.
Ours. *Buff.* 8. *p.* 248. *pl.* 31, 32.
Brown Bear. *Pennant Quadr.* 2. *p.* 1.

THE common Bear, with some variation as to size and colour, is a native of almost all the northern parts of Europe and Asia, and is even said to be found in some of the Indian islands, as Cey-

COMMON BEAR.

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lon, &c.* It inhabits woods and unfrequented places, and feeds chiefly on roots, fruits, and other vegetable substances, but occasionally preys on animals. In the Alpine regions the Bear is brown; in some other parts of Europe, black; and in some parts of Norway has been seen of a grey-colour, and even perfectly white: this latter change of colour sometimes takes place, as is well known, in several other animals, and most frequently in such as are naturally black or of very dark colours. The brown, the black, the grey, and the white land Bears are, therefore, to be considered as of the same species: yet it is observed that the brown and the black variety differ somewhat in their manner of life; the black confining itself almost entirely to vegetable food; the brown, on the contrary, frequently attacking and preying upon other animals, and destroying lambs, kids, and even sometimes cattle, and sucking the blood in the manner of the Cat and Weesel tribes. Linnæus adds, that the Bear has a way of blowing up his prey, and of hiding or burying a part of it. Bears are reported to be particularly fond of honey, in search of which they will climb trees, in order to get at the nests of wild bees; for the Bear, notwithstanding his awkward form, is expert in climbing, and sometimes takes up his residence in the hollow of a very large

* The brown Bear is also said to be found in some of the northern parts of America, where it destroys cattle. The American Black Bear is a different species, and is not carnivorous.

tree. The Bear will also catch and devour fish, occasionally frequenting the banks of rivers for that purpose.

The Bear passes a considerable part of the winter in a state of repose and abstinence; emerging only at distant intervals from his den, and again concealing himself in his retreat till the approach of the vernal season. The females are said to continue in this state much longer than the males, and it is during this period that they bring forth their young, which are commonly two in number. These the ancients imagined to be nearly shapeless masses, gradually licked and fashioned into regular form by the parent; an opinion now sufficiently exploded. On this subject the learned Sir Thomas Brown has a chapter in his celebrated work, the Pseudodoxia Epidemica, or Vulgar Errors, and observes, that we have the testimony of "three authentic philosophers," in confutation of the notion, viz. first, of Matthiolus, who, in his Comment on Dioscorides, affirms, that, in a newly killed Bear which he saw opened, the young were distinct in all their limbs; secondly, of Julius Scaliger, who affirms the same thing of one killed by some hunters in the Alps; and, lastly, of Aldrovandus, who informs us, that in the Museum at Bologna there was, in his time, the fœtus of a Bear preserved in spirits, and which was as completely formed as that of other animals. The young, however, though not shapeless, have a different aspect from the grown animal; the snout being much sharper, and their colour yellowish: